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JOACHIM HERRMANN/REUTERS

'AUSLÄNDERHASS': *Nearly three weeks after five Turks were murdered in an arson attack on their home in Solingen, Germany, on May 29, Chancellor Helmut Kohl told parliament yesterday he wants to reform the country's narrow citizenship law in an effort to quell violence against foreigners.*

Kohl Backs Citizenship Reform, Defends Effort to Stop Hate Crime

By Francine S. Kiefer
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

BONN

GERMAN Chancellor Helmut Kohl announced yesterday that he wants to reform the country's narrow citizenship law before elections take place next year. Under present law, citizenship is granted mostly to those of German ethnic background.

Speaking before the Bundestag on the subjects of right-wing extremism, the integration of foreigners, and German-Turkish relations, the chancellor said he especially wanted to make it easier for Turks born in Germany to become German citizens.

In this light, he said, Germany should examine the possibility of granting multiple citizenship to foreigners living here, although he confirmed that he still fundamentally opposes the idea.

The talk, which kicked off a two-hour parliamentary debate on *Ausländerhass*, or "hatred of foreigners," came nearly three weeks after five Turks were murdered in an arson attack on their Solingen home May 29. Aside from a statement immediately after the attack, the chancellor has kept a relatively low profile on the issue, most notably in his absence at the funeral for the Turkish victims.

The bulk of Kohl's speech, however, was a vigorous defense of measures already taken by the German government to stop hate crimes and to integrate foreigners here. He emphasized that Germany has taken in vastly more asylum-seekers and war refugees than any other Western European country.

"We haven't the slightest reason to hide before the international [community]," he said.

Kohl also devoted much of his 45-minute speech to reinforcing friendly relations between Germany and Turkey, and came to the defense of the Turkish government on the subject of human rights abuses. A government spokesman in An-

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Clinton Finds Nominations Just Got Tougher

Trouble over recent candidates signals a shift in the rules of the game for capital duels

By Marshall Ingwerson
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON

ONLY Bill Clinton knows how great a role Social Security taxes for a part-time housekeeper played in the passing over of Judge Stephen Breyer for the Supreme Court.

White House officials say Mr. Breyer's failure to pay these taxes was a factor, but not "the" factor in the decision.

Even so, the matter shows how fine a screen of scrutiny otherwise stainless candidates must pass through to reach prominent government positions.

From Zoë Baird's household hiring practices to the footnotes of Lani Guinier's law review articles, the Clinton White House has been blindsided a few more times than usual by problems it had overlooked or underestimated.

"The level of intensity has never been ... as high" in the politics of nominations, says Calvin MacKenzie, an expert on White House appointments at Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

Charges of ethics violations, especially in the process of confirming nominees to high office, "is the modern form of dueling," says a former official from the Bush administration.

The charges themselves are usually a mere pretext, a handy weapon, in a battle over who gets a job, the Bush official says.

Ms. Baird had a more substantial problem than some fallen aspirants who followed her – both from hiring an illegal alien couple and in not paying Social Security taxes.

But the next heir apparent to the attorney general post, Judge Kimba Wood, hired an illegal alien when it was legal to do so. "She had done absolutely nothing wrong. It was terribly unfair to her," the Bush official says.

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DEFENSE FORCES UNDER FIRE

Angry Israeli Parents Take Army to Task Over Accidents

By Peter Ford
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

YOKNEAM, ISRAEL

AMIR MELET'S gravestone, a rough-hewn upright slab of marble, stands out sharply in the pine-shaded corner of Yokneam's cemetery that is reserved for soldiers' tombs. The Israeli Army has told Amir's mother to take it down.

The stone does not conform to military regulations.

On each of the standard issue graves next to Amir's, the names, ranks, and numbers are different, but the cause of death given is the same: "Fell in the line of duty."

But Shulamit Melet refuses to hide how her youngest son died, and has carved an explanation on his gravestone.

Amir died a year ago in a training accident, and Mrs. Melet believes the Israeli Army allows too many boys to die in accidents. "Because the Army wants to whitewash and hide things, it wants me to remove Amir's stone. But that would be a desecration of his grave," she says angrily.

Mrs. Melet will be among hundreds of bereaved parents who plan to meet today to launch a national organization to campaign against what they call senseless deaths in the Army.

This is the first time that such

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Japan's Premier Challenged
Amid outrage over corruption and the pace of political reform, Kiichi Miyazawa struggles for his political life.
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Some Fans Love Orchids Too Much
Advocates of conservation see a need to protect wild species from avid collectors.
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From Fruit Tarts to Creme Pies
An interview with Le Meridien hotel pastry chef Pascal Lachaud, who is known for his artistic flair.
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Clinton Defends Strikes Against Somali Warlord

PRESIDENT Clinton defended the use of American air power against a Somali warlord despite civilian casualties, and warned the United States also "would take action" if United Nations peacekeepers were attacked in the former Yugoslavia. "Obviously we're going to protect our own soldiers," the president declared at a news conference Tuesday.

Mr. Clinton also said he hasn't backed away from wanting to arm Bosnian Muslims and use air strikes against Bosnian Serbs to force a settlement in the Balkan war, although Britain, France, and Russia have balked at his strategy. He said these US allies may be "compelled to do that or something very near like it if they want to get anything done over there."

Radio Free Europe, Radio Liberty stay

Declaring that "freedom's work is not completed," President Clinton proposes keeping Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty on the air by consolidating them with Voice of America. The administration has also decided to start up a new "Asian Democracy Radio" to inform Asians, "whose governments still suppress the truth," Mr. Clinton said. ADR was expected to broadcast mainly to the Chinese mainland.

WASHINGTON WATCH

The Clinton administration earlier had planned to phase out Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, the US overseas broadcasting operations to Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union spawned by the cold war, by 1994 or 1995. The bipartisan Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy had advised the president to scrap RFE and RL, but Clinton chose to follow the recommendations of a presidential task force. The new democracies are encountering difficulties and "still need a source of news that is reliably free from manipulation" at home, the president said.

White House may be shredding data illegally

District of Columbia US District Judge Royce Lamberth said there is "sufficiently credible" evidence to believe the White House is violating his March 10 and April 16 orders to preserve all documents generated and gathered by Hillary Rodham Clinton's health the task force and the 500-member working group that supported it. He issued an order directing the first lady to "gather and hold" the thousands of "records, reports, transcripts, appendixes, working papers, drafts, studies, agenda, or other documents" of the task force and its working group the past four months.

"I want a name and address of who's going to be accountable, who's going to be held in contempt if there are documents destroyed," he told Justice Department and White House lawyers Tuesday. The order was sought by two health-care organizations and a public interest group that tried earlier this year to remove a shroud of secrecy surrounding the health-care proposals.

Reprimand for a general

A two-star Air Force general who reportedly ridiculed President Clinton in public is likely to receive a written reprimand that will effectively end his career, according to published reports. The Pentagon confirmed Tuesday that an investigation of the incident has been completed, and two newspapers said it confirmed that Maj. Gen. Harold Campbell called Clinton a "pot-smoking," "womanizing" and "draft-dodging" commander in chief at a service awards dinner in the Netherlands on May 24.

Lt. Gen. Dale Thompson, vice commander of the Air Force Materiel Command, reportedly confirmed the essence of the reports while on an investigative trip to the Netherlands that ended last Friday.

– Compiled by David Mutch

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NATIONAL

Law Would Rein In Agents From Seizing Property

Bill is introduced to protect possessions, money of innocent citizens

By John Dillin
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON

A QUIET effort has begun in Congress to rein in federal and state agencies that are seizing – in the name of law enforcement – billions of dollars worth of property from American citizens.

Complaints about police actions are multiplying. Horror stories abound, particularly in drug cases. People are losing their family homes, farms, automobiles, boats, businesses, cash, and sometimes their life savings. All this, even though many were never convicted of a crime.

Law enforcement officers are acting under statutes which permit them to confiscate the property of anyone suspected of various crimes.

Rep. Henry Hyde of Illinois, a conservative Republican, launched an effort this week to gather support for a bill restricting government authority to seize property. The Hyde bill would also expand the rights of innocent people to protect their possessions.

Next week, the House Committee on Government Operations has scheduled hearings that could start building support for the kind of legislation Representative Hyde is demanding.

Hyde cites numerous instances of summary justice given to apparently innocent Americans at the hands of federal and state officials.

Example: Willie Jones, the owner of a landscaping service, paid for an airline ticket with cash. Police were alerted, a fairly common practice. Mr. Jones was searched, but no drugs were detected. In his wallet was $9,600 in cash on which traces of drugs were found (Hyde says 97 percent of all currency now carries at least a trace of narcotics).

The cash was seized, though Jones was not arrested. Loss of the $9,600 nearly drove him out of business. His comment: "I didn't know it was against the law for a 42-year-old black man to have money in his pocket."

Example: Craig Klein, a Jacksonville University professor, purchased a new, $24,000 sailboat in St. Petersburg, Fla. En route to Jacksonville, the boat was stopped by US Customs agents and Martin County (Fla.) sheriff's deputies.

No drugs were found, but the interior woodwork was ripped out, the engine was damaged with a fire ax, the fuel tank was ruptured, and 30 holes were drilled in the hull, many below the waterline. Professor Klein sold his boat for scrap.

Under current law, federal officials were not responsible for the damage. In this case, Klein's congressman, Rep. Charles Bennett (D) of Florida managed to get a "private relief bill" through Congress to help him pay off the $8,900 balance of his loan.

Most innocent victims don't get such assistance. Even unwitting violations can cost a person an automobile, or even more.

US COAST GUARD PHOTO

CONFISCATED COCAINE: *Searching for drugs, the Coast Guard (pictured here) and other policing agencies seize billions of dollars of citizen property.*

"It has become a nightmare for thousands of ordinary, law-abiding citizens," says Nadine Strossen, president of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Ms. Strossen supports the Hyde bill, though she would like it to go further by wiping out asset-forfeiture laws altogether. Hyde disagrees, saying the laws are a valuable tool against major drug dealers. His bill centers on protecting innocent parties.

Nationwide, federal and state authorities have seized billions of dollars in property since the drug war heated up around 1984. Most is sold at auction, with a large portion of the assets going to federal and state police.

One aspect that troubles civil libertarians is that current laws set up a potential conflict-of-interest. Since forfeited assets fund a significant portion of police budgets, libertarians worry that police will go after easy, expensive targets for financial reasons.

Nancy Hollander, president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, says: "Forfeiture laws ... were touted as an effective weapon with which to gain ground in the war on drugs.... However, that goal has never been realized. Instead, law enforcement has too often focused its forfeiture activities against minor participants and innocent people.... Tens of thousands of citizens have had their property seized...."

The Hyde bill would make six changes in federal law:

- It puts the burden of proof on the government. Current law requires citizens to prove innocence *after* their property has been seized.
- It provides counsel for people who find themselves indigent after losing their assets.
- It returns property to owners (for example, the owner of a rental home) who have tried to prevent their property from being used as a place of drug deals.
- It eliminates the 10 percent bond requirement for anyone seeking return of his property.
- It gives owners 60 days to contest a forfeiture. The current limit is 10 days.
- It permits owners to sue the government for negligence in handling their property.

ROBERT HARBISON - STAFF/FILE

FOOD DISTRIBUTION IN SENA, MOZAMBIQUE: *US AID relief is provided for drought victims. While President Clinton wants to redirect US aid, the 1994 package now emerging from Congress gives relatively little aid to Africa.*

INTERVIEW

US AID Director Aims To Target Assistance, Boost Human Rights

By Ben Barber
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

WASHINGTON

NOW that the cold war has ended, President Clinton's new director of the $6.8 billion-a-year Agency for International Development – J. Brian Atwood – says he hopes to redirect America's third-world aid toward new targets: human rights, democracy, and what experts call "sustainable development" – a catch phrase that includes environmental protection and empowerment of the poor in the third world.

The AID budget debate on the floor of the House began Tuesday and continued yesterday with Lee Hamilton (D) of Indiana, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, calling the "leaner" foreign aid program a tool that is "cheaper" than the military in securing peace in the world.

This year, in a significant change in policy, AID's budget bill does not list the amount each nation will receive. A congressional aide said it was an attempt to stop "micromanagement" – the traditional congressional "earmarking," in which politically endowed countries get extra funding due to pressure by the State Department or key congressmen, regardless of their real needs or AID's desires.

For example, in 1993 the top 10 nations to receive AID funds did not include a single country in Africa, the poorest place on earth. Instead, the most money went to America's friends: Israel, Egypt, Peru, Nicaragua, Turkey, El Salvador, India, Bolivia, Bangladesh, and the Philippines.

And despite a promise to reform things, Mr. Atwood, in his first interview since his confirmation by the United States Senate, admitted that the lion's share of the AID budget – nearly one-third – will continue to go to Israel and Egypt – "not exactly a development decision" but one that "grew out of a commitment at Camp David" when President Jimmy Carter brokered a peace agreement between Israel and Egypt.

Indeed, according to Andrew Natsios, former AID assistant administrator under Presidents Reagan and Bush, congressional earmarking as well as State Department priorities mean that "there is practically no money left in the AID budget that is discretionary."

Despite the effort to bar congressional micromanagement, the Foreign Affairs Committee's $9.678 billion authorization for foreign assistance, including AID's $6.8 billion, specifies that Israel will get $3 billion in economic and military aid; Egypt will get $2.15 billion; Russia and other former Soviet-bloc states will get $903 million; and Africa's aid will be raised from the $800 million requested by the administration to $900 million.

Mr. Atwood said he hopes to cut the number of countries getting aid from 108 to about 50. The list of those to be cut has not yet been delivered to Congress, according to a congressional staff aide. Atwood declined to identify them. He did say the selection process will be based on the new administration's criteria: "What is the [recipient] government doing to contribute to development? Are there good partners to work with? Will there be transparency, pluralism, accountability, democracy?"

Mr. Atwood said that he believed "sustainability" also includes "participatory, people-first programs." They would be sustainable on the grounds that they would continue even after assistance ends.

He admits to a sad and disturbing feeling that he will be fighting a losing battle against overpopulation and poverty. He returned recently to Abidjan in Cote D'Ivoire, 25 years after he served there as a junior foreign service officer. The impact of crowding and poverty was striking: "Everything is overtaxed – the ecosystems. Our aim is to stabilize population growth by 2025."

But money for birth control is not the only way to limit population. When people earn more and fewer children die, parents have fewer children. "It also depends on how women are treated," said Atwood. "If that means intervening in other cultures, we need to do it."

He said he has seen the cloistering of women in Afghanistan and northern Pakistan, where they are not allowed out of their compounds, and "in my opinion, it is a violation of human rights that we will bring up at the Human Rights conference in Vienna," now under way.

Aid programs are often criticized because while they may teach farmers how to increase production, the elites in power may decide to reduce the prices farmers receive for crops or raise the costs of fertilizers. Atwood said that "we need to influence a government's economic policies and encourage redistribution of wealth, not just by taxes but by encouraging small farmers and businesses. I'm an optimist."

He said pessimistic reports predicted "some countries would fall off the face of the earth. But take a country like Haiti and even landlocked places like Niger. They both have resources – human beings. In the third world, people are in more daily contact with other human beings than we are. It has forced them to live peaceful lives."

In 1993 the top 10 nations to receive AID funds did not include a single country in Africa, the poorest place on earth.

Mr. Natsios, who directed AID's Food and Humanitarian Assistance programs and now is vice-president of World Vision, said that the No. 1 problem at AID was congressional interference and too many missions.

The limitations attached in committee to the foreign aid bill include: restrictions that can be waived by the president on countries that aid Cuba or ship destabilizing conventional weapons to Iran; a block on aid to Zaire and Sudan unless there are "new governments moving toward respect for democracy and human rights"; a bar to aid that would result in a loss of US jobs; and requirement of notification on progress toward democracy for aid to Guatemala and Peru, where there have been coups.

House Could Scrap Proposed Fuel Levy

WASHINGTON

AS Democrats on the Senate Finance Committee hash out their own version of an energy tax, members of the House of Representatives are not sure they like what's emerging.

The Finance Committee, due to vote by tomorrow on a budget, is heading toward replacing the proposed Btu tax – which taxes various fuels according to the amount of energy they release – with a tax on transportation fuels. Talk on the amount of the tax has ranged from 3.5 cents a gallon to 7.3 cents for gasoline, diesel, and other transportation fuels.

But in the House, the gas tax "could be in trouble," said Rep. Pat Schroeder (D) of Colorado at a Monitor breakfast held yesterday.

"If you remember, last year [there] was a proposal to put a 5-cent-a-gallon tax and it was going to be for public works, and it did not pass," Representative Schroeder said. "So all along, people have been thinking about that, and the question is: If it didn't pass last year, and it was going to go directly into things people could see – into infrastructure, which everybody seems to agree is falling down – how's it going to pass now when it isn't going to be as direct and [we] see where it goes?"

Schroeder concluded: "So, I think we're a long way from seeing what the final formulation's going to be."

She still believes a Btu tax, which the House approved in its razor-thin 219-to-213 passage of a budget, would be fairer. But the problem, she added, is that people do not understand it. "My favorite letter was, 'I don't even have a Btu and you're gonna tax it.' "

NEAL J. MENSCHEL - STAFF/FILE

REP. PAT SCHROEDER: *Democrat says Senate's replacement for unpopular Btu tax could be in trouble because last year's gas tax failed.*

Schroeder agrees that President Clinton did not do an adequate selling job on the Btu tax, but neither did the "enviros. They didn't get out and advocate for it."

In her view, the House is also partly to blame for the Btu tax's demise because it allowed a few industries to be exempt. "The equal-pain theory got to be not so equal."

– Linda Feldmann

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Breyer was caught by a tax rule that requires paying Social Security for any employee who one pays $50 or more over a period of three months.

"For someone of that caliber to be tarnished in the way that the process tarnished him was really tragic," says another Republican, lawyer Theodore Olson. "We've examined people through a microscope where no person could withstand that sort of scrutiny."

Nonpartisan standard

A potential nominee for deputy attorney general, Charles Ruff, was dropped in March over the same issue raised with Breyer.

"I don't know what percentage of the population would fall into this trap, but it must be enormous," Mr. Olson says. "I think Republicans and Democrats alike would like to have this one gone," since members of both parties are more or less equally at risk.

"We're reaching the point of silliness when we demand this kind of political purity," says Alan Feld, a tax law professor at Boston University.

Some people, of course, knew about and complied with these laws, which are somewhat vague in how they define employees, as distinct from independent contractors. The $50 trigger point is unusually low compared with other tax triggers. It was created to ensure that menial laborers were paid according to the Social Security system, but many people became aware of the rules only through the Baird controversy.

"Zoë Baird may help close the deficit with all the people who are scrambling to pay their back taxes," Mr. Feld says.

Household hiring is only the peccadillo of the moment. During the Bush years, nomination obstacles included heavy drinking and marijuana use.

"Every generation of appointees has its own problems, has tripped some wire," the Bush official says. After President Reagan's Supreme Court nomination of Douglas Ginsburg crashed over his earlier marijuana use, that became a tripwire for a generation that came of age during a time of casual drug experimentation. Federal Bureau of Investigation questionnaires to prospective nominees were reworded to probe for past drug use.

The Bush White House moved to put the marijuana standard down. Over several months, government officials stretched the envelope of acceptability concerning past drug use to how often and how long ago.

But for a president in a weak political position, such as Mr. Clinton, the trend is to avoid any test of boundaries that might cause a fight.

"That's a change," Dr. MacKenzie says. It comes from the "extraordinary level of scrutiny these candidates now go through." Before electronic databases gave easy access to writings and news-clip searches, no one might have read all Ms. Guinier's articles on black representation and voting rights.

Philosophy at issue

The debate over her nomination as assistant attorney general for civil rights had a common trait with Judge Robert Bork's Supreme Court nomination. Both debates concerned political philosophy at the heart of the appointed work of the nominees.

When a political opponent picks up a charge of Social Security taxes or some other ethical violation, "that's not the issue," MacKenzie says.

When President Nixon appointed Harold Carswell to the Supreme Court, many thought he was a mediocre and unqualified choice. His opponents then found a film clip of Mr. Carswell making a segregationist speech as a Senate candidate in Georgia in 1948. It helped defeat him.

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kara said Kohl's speech overshadowed all other domestic subjects in Turkey yesterday.

Kohl's talk was met with little enthusiasm by Faruk Sen, director of the Center for Turkish Studies in Essen. "Turks will be disappointed," he said, since the speech proposed "incredibly little" in the way of changes in Germany's narrow citizenship law.

Although Germany eased its citizenship requirements for long-term foreigners in 1991, Turks argue the law is still too restrictive and demand dual citizenship instead. In 1991, only 3,529 Turks became German citizens, although 1.8 million Turks live here.

Mr. Sen said Kohl's proposals of yesterday were far less generous than the chancellor's suggestion of a five-year dual citizenship, which he made on his state visit to Turkey last month.

The chancellor has been severely criticized for his handling of rightist extremism in Germany. His absence from the funerals for the Turks killed in Solingen and last November in Mölln, is being read by right-wing extremists as tacit encouragement for more violent xenophobic crimes, his critics charge.

Germany has been hit by a wave of "copy-cat" antiforeigner arson attacks since Solingen and an increasing number of attacks on Turks. Herbert Schnoor, Interior Minister for the state of North-Rhine Westphalia, where Solingen is located, commented last week that "it's pure luck that Germany hasn't had to mourn new deaths."

Werner Hoyer, secretary general of the Free Democrats, the junior partner in Kohl's center-right coalition government, suggests that Kohl has kept a low profile on the extremist issue until now "because he wants to keep the right-wing [voters]" in his party.

Rather than talking about further measures to stop extremist measures, politicians now are discussing ways in which to integrate foreigners in Germany. This, says Social Democratic member Karsten Voigt, is "because there are no more easy solutions" to combating extremism.

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a group has been formed, with the express intention of publicly attacking the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), this country's most sacred and revered institution, in which almost every citizen serves at some point in his or her life.

The parents' motives are far from pacifist, and they insist fiercely on their patriotism. "We are not going against the Army as the Army," says Haim Tzuriano, whose son died last year in a training accident. "But we do not accept the idea of training accidents, and the Army seems to take them lightly."

Though Army figures show that the number of accidental deaths among its recruits has not increased recently, the issue hit the headlines with the deaths of four paratroopers in a "friendly fire" incident in southern Lebanon late last month.

Coming only a few months after five soldiers were killed during a training maneuver at the Tselim base, the accident in May also coincided with the revelation that three soldiers have killed themselves this year while playing deliberately dangerous games with their guns.

Though operational accidents, training accidents, and self-inflicted injuries are very different phenomena, a common thread runs through them, suggests Reuven Gal, a former chief psychologist to the Israeli Army. "It's the indiscipline of Israeli culture," he says. "We don't like to do things by the book. The desirable mode is to be a little disobedient, and if you are over-disciplined you are seen as a nerd."

When accidental deaths occur, a growing number of parents say, the Army tries to cover up the causes. "They always try to whitewash, rather than try to arrive at the truth," alleges Mr. Tzuriano, whose son, Gil, fell to his death when a cable lifting him into a helicopter snapped.

The Army vehemently denies such charges. "The Israeli Army has no problem being held accountable for its actions," says IDF spokesman Lt. Col. Moshe Fogel. "Accidents are studied at the chief of staff's desk, and they are dealt with in a very, very serious way."

This does not mean, however, that the right people are always punished, critics argue. Two junior officers were found guilty only of negligence in the case of Amir Melet, who was flung to his death by a highly sprung net used to brake aircraft. "The responsibility rests with the highest echelons," Mrs. Melet says. "If every high-ranking officer knew that he was legally responsible, he would take more care" over safety.

'We must take investigations and trials out of the hands of the Army.... It is not reasonable that the Army should investigate itself.'
– Shulamit Melet

"People shake off their responsibilities, and there is no one to talk to," Tzuriano adds. "That's why we want a civilian body to be in charge of investigating accidents in the Army."

Currently all Army accidents are investigated by military commissions of inquiry, which parents believe sometimes put protecting the Army's image ahead of uncovering the truth.

"We must take investigations and trials out of the hands of the Army," Melet argues. "It is not reasonable that the Army should investigate itself."

The IDF, however, is loath to hand over investigations to an outside body. "It is a very important principle that we have to have credibility that our investigations are forthright, open, and honest," Colonel Fogel insists. "We do not want to withdraw to a different level of credibility."

Under fire from critics over the number of accidents recently, Army chief of staff, Gen. Ehud Barak, has produced figures to show that the accident tally has in fact fallen during the past 15 years, despite a 30 percent growth in the Army's size.

But accidents are now reported publicly, Fogel points out, explaining the greater outcry. "In the past, the military censor used to control reports of accidents," he says. "There has been a gradual relaxation of that policy."

At the same time, today's parents have themselves served in the Army, and know what it is like, whereas their own mothers and fathers had no conception of Army life.

Modern parents' "familiarity with the Army is first hand," Fogel points out. "They know the Army's faults up close, they are more knowledgeable and ready to speak out, and less ready to take things for granted."

As a "peoples' army" in which everybody serves, "everybody feels part of it," Dr. Gal adds. "It's not theirs, it's ours. Everyone serves, so the Army is part of our family, not an external, foreign entity."

If the military authorities were stricter about enforcing safety regulations, Tzuriano argues, they could cut the number of accidents. Driving fatalities in Army vehicles were slashed by a program of strict punishment for bad drivers, he recalls.

But in the end, Gal argues, parents cannot expect to have much influence on the way the Army operates. "There is an inherent contradiction between a parent's approach and the military," he says. "The only thing that matters to a mother is her son's life, and all she wants is that the Army should keep her son safe.

"But for the military, the soldier's life is not the goal, it is the means to an objective," he says. "The military and parents are not talking at the same level."

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CHALLENGING CORRUPTION

Japan's Opposition Threatens to Topple Premier Over Reform

By Clayton Jones
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

TOKYO

JUST three weeks before he plays host to the G-7 summit in Tokyo, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa is fighting for his political life.

Corruption has taken a toll on Mr. Miyazawa's ruling party, the Liberal Democrats, and reports of excessive personal wealth among leading politicians are adding fuel to the drive to oust him, perhaps as early as today.

Six opposition parties plan a no-confidence vote in parliament, playing on public discontent over the failure of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), and specifically Miyazawa, to push through long-promised reforms of a political system that has helped keep the LDP in power for 37 years.

K. NOGI/AFP

KIICHI MIYAZAWA

"If Japan's politics remain paralyzed, its economy and society will face considerable disorder," said an editorial in the leading newspaper, Yomiuri.

Both the Tokyo stock market and the yen have lost value in recent weeks, in part because of a perception that Japan's political leaders may be unable to resolve trade disputes with its partners in the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

In particular, a weakened Miyazawa could be unable to make any concessions to President Clinton in setting an agenda for United States-Japan trade talks over the next few years. The two leaders agreed in April to come up with an agenda in time for the July 7-9 summit.

The LDP leadership decided on Wednesday to try to head off the opposition's no-confidence vote by pushing for a vote on its most controversial electoral reform: single-seat constituencies. The decision brought fisticuffs among some LDP members.

Under the present multiseat proportional representation system, candidates of the same party run against each other in each district. This leads to races in which politicians run on promises of pork and benefits to voters rather than policy differences.

But opposition parties oppose a single-seat system because they believe it would allow the LDP to further dominate Japanese politics. Instead, they propose a mix of single-seats and proportional-seats, an idea endorsed by a key faction within the LDP led by former finance minister Tsutomu Hata.

His faction holds the balance in the expected vote against Miyazawa. Mr. Hata's faction was formed last year when the LDP's largest faction split after its leader, Shin Kanemaru, was found to have amassed gold bars, bonds, and cash from illegal political donations.

But beyond such blatant corruption, the public focused this week on the wealth of individual LDP members, who were forced under a new law to reveal their personal assets for the first time. The average LDP member has personal assets of $1.3 million, almost three times that of the average Japanese family. The wealthiest lawmaker, Takashi Sasagawa, had assets $41 million.

The LDP had hoped that a lapse of time and promises of reform would quell public discontent over nearly 4 years of reported corruption within the party. But in a poll by Nihon Keizai newspaper, 52.7 percent of Japanese said they want an election for the House of Representatives if a reform bill is not passed.

The debate on political reform was suppressed until last week out of consideration for the wedding of the crown prince.

If the vote against Miyazawa wins, he would be forced to call a general election before it is mandated in February 1994, creating political uncertainty during the G-7 summit.

INTERNATIONAL

Salinas Adds New Notches To Environment Record

But Mexican critics say he plays to Congress to ease NAFTA's path

By David Clark Scott
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

MEXICO CITY

ROSS PEROT'S campaign to portray the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) as a scam to allow polluting industries to flee to Mexico doesn't seem to jibe with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's environmental record.

On Tuesday, a United States company was forced to pay a $2 million fine to the Mexican government to clean up an illegal toxic waste dump near Tijuana. Last week, President Salinas declared the Upper Gulf of California a national marine reserve to save two endangered species, the vaquita dolphin and totoaba fish.

Since taking office in 1989, Salinas has created 11 new nature reserves and increased Mexico's total protected area by more than 20 percent.

The latest moves, on top of international environmental awards and other Salinas measures, have many conservation groups labeling him the "greenest" leader in Mexican history.

"I would grade his work as outstanding. If we had presidents like him, one presidential term after another, Mexico would be much further ahead," says Martin Goebel, director of the World Wildlife Fund program in Mexico.

"I've worked in this area since 1980, and nobody in the US government can match the leadership Salinas has shown. I'd give him a gold star for hard work," says Peter Emerson of the Environmental Defense Fund in Austin, Texas.

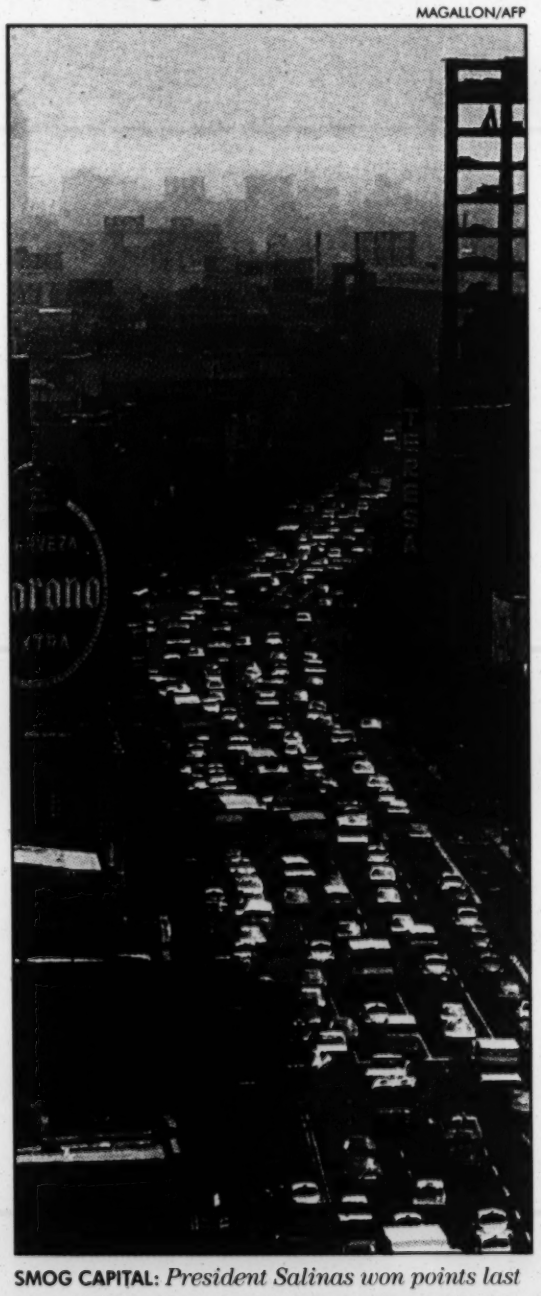
These comments reflect a prevailing view among environmentalists, particularly United States-based conservation organizations. But some Mexican groups are dissatisfied and distrustful.

"He makes spectacular gestures with little substance," charges Rafael González, director of Mexico's Greenpeace office. He claims Salinas courts US organizations with the aim of winning votes in the US Congress for NAFTA. "Salinas policies are aimed at creating a good external image more than actually confronting problems."

Mr. González points to the dramatic 1991 closing of a large oil refinery located in Mexico City. The act was cited as part of the reason Salinas won an environmental award from United Earth, a group sponsored by Claes Nobel of the Nobel Prize family. "The plant was obsolete. It was going to be closed sooner or later," says González. "But pleas from local residents were ignored until the plant closing served to send a political message abroad."

González says Salinas's environmental efforts are undermined by the drive to attract foreign investment and privatize government entities. "Deregulation is opening the doors to exploitation of our natural resources without offering any real protection."

MAGALLON/AFP



SMOG CAPITAL: *President Salinas won points last year for his attempts to improve air quality in Mexico City by restricting auto use and forcing polluting factories to shut down.*

The president of the Mexican Ecological Movement, Alfonso Cipres Villareal, also sees Salinas in a less-than-favorable light.

"Mexico City remains one of the most polluted cities in the world. Water quality throughout the country is horrible. Salinas has made the minimum effort. He talks a lot, makes a lot of plans. But the results are almost zero," contends Mr. Cipres Villareal.

US environmentalists agree that enforcement of Mexican laws remains spotty. Environmental funding in any country, particularly a poor, developing country, is a problem. Nonetheless, Salinas has committed Mexico to spending $460 million on a border cleanup program. And the two-year-old federal attorney general's Office for the Environment is making some headway in fining and closing polluting factories.

Mr. Goebel and others are concerned the momentum may not last past the end of Salinas' term in 1995. But they sharply disagree that Salinas is all talk and no action.

"Salinas has bitten the bullet in terms of actions and commitments," says Peter Seligmann, the Washington, D.C.-based chairman of Conservation International. Last year, the group honored Salinas with its first World Conservation Leadership Award.

Mr. Seligmann cites Mexico's new National Biodiversity Commission, a body with a $1 million budget to catalog the unique wealth of plants and animals and set conservation priorities. He cites government funding for microenterprise ecotourism projects, and the 1992 presidential decision to reroute a new highway around the El Ocote forest reserve.

But while the NAFTA side agreements on labor and environment are still being negotiated, Bill Snape of the Defenders of Wildlife, based in Washington, D.C., says it's too soon to judge Salinas.

"I might give him a passing grade," he says, "but I would argue that the final exam hasn't been taken yet. The final exam is how Mexico handles the NAFTA side agreement."

Collapse of secession movement brings hope things have finally settled down

Cambodia Agreement Eases Pressure on UN

By Kathy Chenault
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

KOMPONG CHAM, CAMBODIA

SREI KA huddled with friends behind her small jewelry booth, speaking in whispers about her fears that political feuds threatening to splinter Cambodia would end all hope of finding lasting peace in this war-weary nation.

Like other vendors in the main market in the provincial capital of Kompong Cham, Ms. Srei said she was afraid that security forces aligned with the renegade officials who had declared her home province part of a new autonomous zone in eastern Cambodia would take revenge on her if she angered them.

But as is the case so many times in the ever-changing world of Cambodian politics, developments changed the situation considerably within 24 hours, and Srei's outlook brightened.

The shift came after the collapse of the short-lived secessionist movement, led by wayward Prince Norodom Chakrapong, and another announcement from Phnom Penh that senior leaders had agreed on an interim government to work for national reconciliation.

The political compromise in Phnom Penh should ease pressure on the UN mission trying to implement a two-year-old peace plan in Cambodia. The effort has neared collapse on several occasions because of the failure to disarm combatants, cease-fire violations, and the refusal of the ruling Communists and their political party, the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), to accept the results of UN-run elections last month.

Under the latest agreement, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, leader of the royalist party known by its French acronym FUNCINPEC, and Prime Minister Hun Sen would be co-chairman of the transition government under Prince Ranariddh's father, former monarch Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

But a previous agreement to form a coalition government with Hun Sen and Ranariddh serving as deputy prime ministers under Sihanouk's leadership lasted only one day.

Ranariddh objected to having equal footing with Hun Sen, a bitter political foe, after FUNCINPEC won the most support in the May 23-28 elections.

Ranariddh, however, indicated over the weekend that he was willing to share power in an interim regime, perhaps in an effort to defuse the secessionist movement of his half-brother Prince Chakrapong.

UN spokesman Eric Berman said yesterday that the situation had returned to normal in the provinces that had been declared part of the autonomous zone.

UN staff who had left following threats from secessionists were returning to their posts and UN flights resumed to areas that secessionist leaders had closed.

STEFAN ELLIS/AFP

PRINCE NORODOM RANARIDDH: *The leader of the royalist party (wearing garland) has agreed to co-chair an interim government with Premier Hun Sen under Prince Norodom Sihanouk.*

The attempted secession broke down after Hun Sen went to Kompong Cham to visit provincial officials and persuade them to end their rebellion. They were protesting the election outcome, which gave FUNCINPEC the most seats in the new constituent assembly, a painful rebuke for Hun Sen's outgoing government and his political party.

Hun Sen spokesman Uch Kiman said the scope of the secession had been exaggerated by rebellion leaders, who claimed seven provinces were involved. Mr. Uch said only three provinces had joined the separatist movement.

UN military spokesman John Weiland said UN peacekeepers had seen Chakrapong in a 20-vehicle convoy that crossed into Vietnam early Tuesday morning. People traveling in the convoy handed over weapons to the border guards before entering Vietnam, Lt. Col. Weiland said.

The Vietnamese Embassy in Phnom Penh indicated that Hanoi would not allow Chakrapong to continue separatist efforts from across the border, pledging full support for the peace agreement signed in 1991 by Cambodia's warring factions.

But not everyone was confident the threat from security forces controlled by the old government of the CPP was over. FUNCINPEC said Wednesday that 4,439 party officials and supporters were fleeing from the countryside to Phnom Penh because of threatened attacks.

While the end on Tuesday of the so-called "King Father Autonomous Zone" after three days brought relief to Cambodians like Srei, many said the rapid shifts in policies were confusing but acceptable as long as the UN could continue its efforts to bring peace to the country.

"One day all the parties have one agreement and then the next day they disagree. They reconcile and then unreconcile," she said.

"Now I feel relief and I think it is a good idea," she said of the decision to abandon plans for an autonomous zone. "Maybe we will have no more war."

Turkey's Reform-Minded Premier Faces Stiff Opposition

By Sami Kohen
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

ISTANBUL

SOME Turks already call her "Turkey's Iron Lady," in reference to Britain's Margaret Thatcher.

Tansu Ciller (pronounced Chiller), Turkey's new premier-designate and only the third woman to become leader of a Muslim nation, is a tough, reform-minded economist who campaigned for her party's leadership on "hardship and sacrifices by the people."

Mrs. Ciller has promised to restructure Turkey's centralized economy and make her country an active player in international affairs. But as she prepares to shape the Cabinet, opposition to her proposed policies threatens to divide factions within her True Path Party (DYP) and disrupt the coalition government she inherited.

"The honeymoon is going to be cut short and the problems will start to be felt soon," commented the leading daily Milliyet. A diplomat here agrees: "Mrs. Ciller has scored a great success by taking over the leadership of the party and the government. But the real difficulties are starting now."

With only three years of political experience, Ciller defeated two long-serving Cabinet members at the DYP convention June 13 in the race for the party leadership. That position virtually assured her appointment as prime minister, which President Suleyman Demirel announced the following day. Mr. Demirel vacated the premiership when he became president last month following the April death of Turgut Ozal.

Many delegates at the convention said the time had come to get rid of the old guard. Many indicated that the party needed a new, youthful leader to contain its main rival, the conservative Motherland Party, which could pose a threat in municipal elections next March and possible early general elections thereafter.

"The secret of her success resides in the fact that many delegates saw her opponents as the representatives of the old system," says Ilter Turan, a social scientist. "The delegates knew what they were against. In a sense, the support for Mrs. Ciller came from that negative factor."

As state minister for the economy, Ciller proposed privatizing mismanaged state enterprises, lowering interest rates, and restricting public spending. She often blamed her opponents within the Demirel administration whenever her reforms were criticized. She vowed to continue those policies, which have gained her strong support from the business sector, in her new position.

The question now is whether she will be able to do so amid stiff opposition. Although she paid lip service at the convention to the various factions within the party, including the nationalists, the pro-Islamists, the reformists, and the conservatives, her opponents remain skeptical.

FAITH SARIBAS/REUTERS

TANSU CILLER

The junior partner in the government coalition, the Social Democratic Party, also has expressed disagreement with Ciller's free-market approach. A compromise along the lines that has existed during Demirel's administration would require concessions, but Ciller seems ready to stick to her views.

Ciller began talks with SDP leaders yesterday, and is expected to be sworn in within a few weeks, once her Cabinet is formed.

ECONOMY

A Company's Quest for High-Quality Sound

By Moon Lee
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

FRAMINGHAM, MASS.

AT age 13, Amar Bose started a basement radio repair shop in Philadelphia that became his family's sole support during World War II.

By the time he was 19, he knew that one day he would have his own company, Dr. Bose says.

Today, Bose is founder, chairman, and technical director of Bose Corporation, the world's largest manufacturer of component-quality loudspeakers.

His privately held, 29-year-old company sold $450-million worth of speakers in fiscal year 1993, and has 15 international subsidiaries. Based in this suburb 23 miles west of Boston, Bose speakers have been best-sellers this decade in the United States, Europe, Japan, Canada, and Australia, the company says.

Bose Corporation is like the Toyota of the sound-system industry: Once consumers realized the quality of its products, sales kept going up and up, Bose says.

"I'm very strict about the [quality] standards," he adds.

While other businesses are cutting back, Bose Corporation is expanding production capacity. The 1990-91 recession and the subsequent years of slow growth have not stopped the company from increasing its sales.

Sales grew in the last fiscal year by 7 percent. Since 1984, when the company's net revenue was $86 million, sales have almost quintupled.

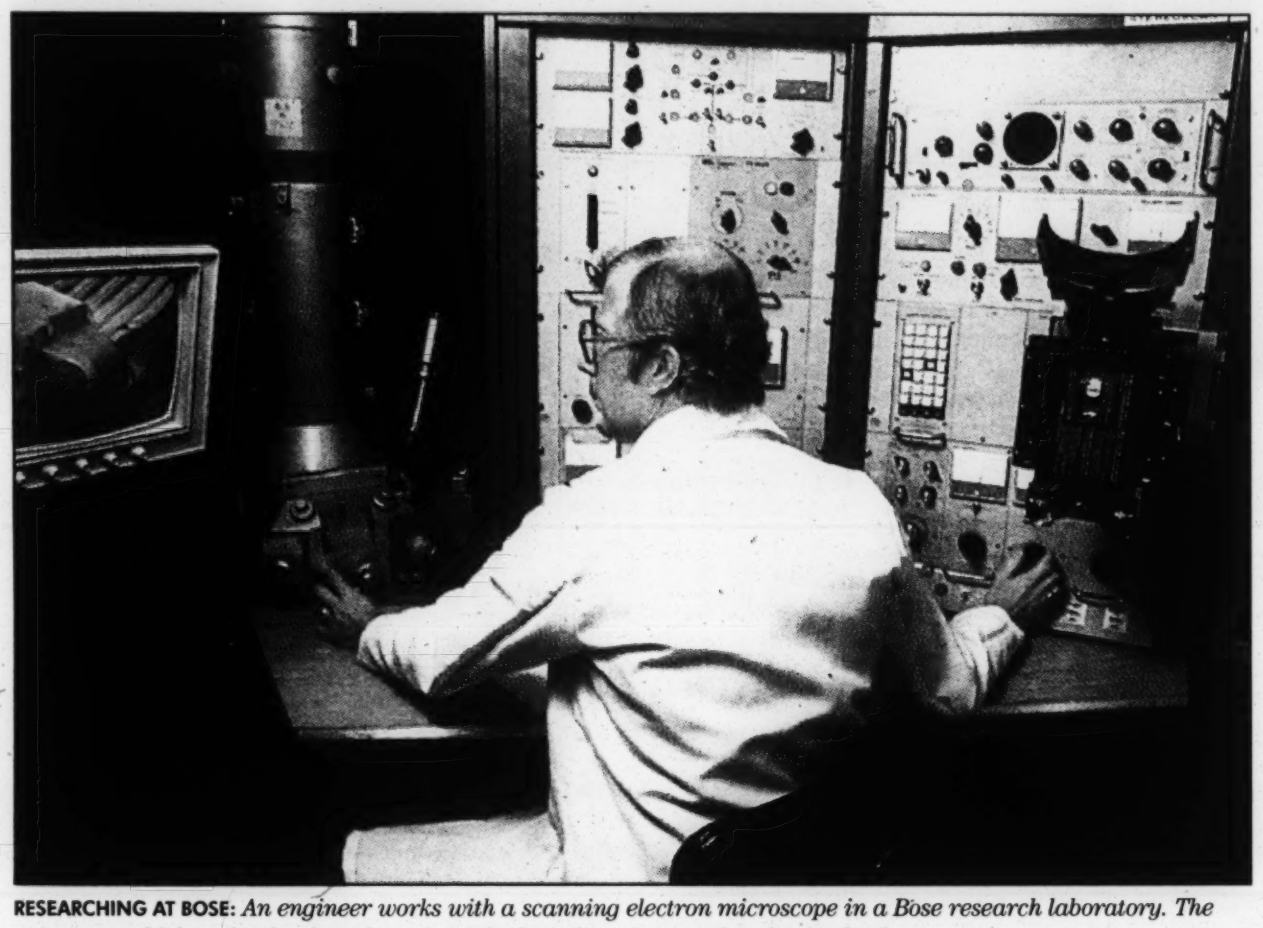
Bose says the main reason for his company's success is "customer satisfaction," which hangs on product research. The company reinvests 100 percent of its profits into growth and development, he says.

"The distinguishing characteristic [of Bose Corporation] has been its innovation," says Michael Riggs, executive editor of Stereo Review, a consumer publication.

This summer the company plans to come out with what Bose considers a revolution in radio – a wave radio. Although he will not describe the radio, Bose says it is "one of the inventions I am most proud of."

Bose's emphasis on research has paid off in the past. In 1968, the company introduced the 901 Direct/Reflecting loudspeaker, priced at $476 a pair. A pair now costs $1,499.

More than 80 percent of the sound that listeners hear during a concert reaches them after being bounced off the ceiling, floor, and walls, Bose says. Unlike conventional speakers which aim sound forward, this loudspeaker, consisting of a pentagonal enclosure housing nine small speakers, radiates most of its sound from the back. Only one speaker aims directly at the listener.



RESEARCHING AT BOSE: *An engineer works with a scanning electron microscope in a Bose research laboratory. The company, which makes loudspeakers, is exploring other areas such as basic physics.*

Confident with the home-stereo market, the company expanded into the car-stereo market in the late 1970s. Sales of factory-installed sound systems were sluggish, giving Bose the idea of customizing music systems to fit the car and the seating of its passengers. He approached General Motors Corporation in 1979 and made a deal with the automaker's electronics division.

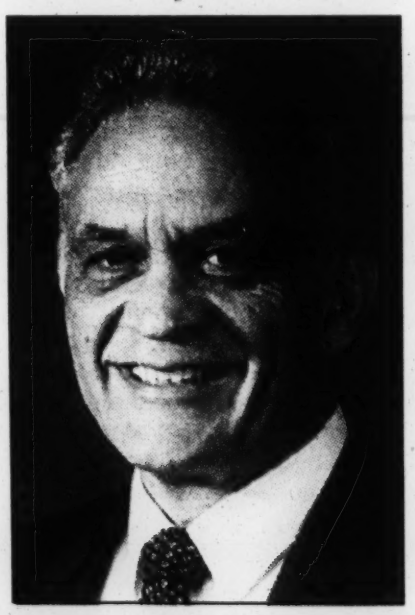
Bose committed $13 million and four years to the project. Since then, he has formed partnerships with seven other automakers, including Mercedes-Benz, Mazda, Audi, and Honda. Other sound-system companies, like JBL and Infinity, followed Bose's lead into the auto market.

Next came television. In 1984, Bose Corporation developed the Acoustic Wave Music System, a portable stereo system similar to a boom box, which now sells for $997. The system consists of an 80-inch-long tube folded into a cubic foot of space and hooked into a radio tuner and cassette tape player.

It took Bose $14 million and 15 years to develop the formula. With his patented acoustic waveguide technology, he signed on with Zenith Electronics Corporation, the only major company manufacturing television sets in the US. He was able to adapt the Acoustic Wave tube for Zenith sets, adding only an inch to the cabinet size of the set itself.

Deals with auto companies and Zenith account for about 25 percent of Bose Corporation's total sales. More than 50 percent of total sales are made overseas.

When the company began in 1964, it survived on government military contracts. Today, Bose has 3,000 employees worldwide and government contracts account for less than 2 percent of total revenue. The company's closest competitors, JBL and Polk, are smaller, both in size and market share. "Bose is among the top market holders in the world," says Paul Gluckman, managing editor of Audio Week, a trade publication. There are more than 450 small, fragmented companies in the sound-system business, says a spokeswoman of the Electronic Industries Association.



'When we started, all the [speaker] companies were giants. We survived on government contracts.'
– Amar Bose

Bose says he does not follow industry trends. "We never give it a thought," he says, referring to his competitors. A company that pays too much attention to its competitors becomes a follower, not an industry leader, he says.

Bose's passion for research and his search for a better product have led him to expand outside of sound. "We are doing research in fields in anything from basic physics to projects for automobiles that have nothing at all to do with sound," he says.

Bose says he plans to keep his company private. He currently owns two-thirds of Bose Corporation. The rest is held by private investors.

"I don't even think of it," he says about the possibility of going public. "Public companies are by nature short-term oriented. They have to make their financial statements look good every 90 days. And when you do that that's a formula for eventual loss."

Bose says he has no plans of retiring soon. "I'm enjoying what I do," he says.

A MAN AND HIS STEREO: SETTING OUT TO SOLVE THE GREAT PUZZLE OF BETTER SOUND

FRAMINGHAM, MASS.

■ In 1956, after nine years studying at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Amar Bose joined the faculty as an electrical-engineering professor.

As a reward, he bought himself a new hi-fi.

But having studied violin for seven years, Dr. Bose was embarrassed when, after inviting some friends to listen to his new loudspeakers, shrill violin sounds came out.

Bose knew the hi-fi speakers could be better.

"Science says one thing and your ears say another," he remembers thinking. He was determined, he says, to recreate in his own living room the tremendous sounds he heard in concert halls.

Though teaching during the day, Bose decided to spend his evenings trying to solve the puzzle of better sound.

His research in psychoacoustics later became an official university project. This project investigated the relationship between reproduced sound as perceived by people and sound as measured by electronic equipment.

His findings eventually led to the development of new audio technologies which MIT allowed him to patent.

He was trying to license these patents to the industry, but not succeeding. Then a university colleague told him he should recognize the value of his findings.

So, eight years after buying the disappointing loudspeakers, Bose founded his company at the age of 34.

Bose still puts in long hours of work at Bose Corporation. And he is still a professor of electrical engineering and computer science at MIT, teaching acoustics to graduate and undergraduate students.

Sherwin Greenblatt, a former student and Bose's first paid employee, is now president and chief operating officer of Bose Corporation. He works at the company headquarters here, a modern facility located on top of what is called "The Mountain." It offers employees a spectacular view of the surrounding lakes and forests.

– M. L.

Big 3 Near Agreement To Develop Electric Cars

By Paul A. Eisenstein
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

DETROIT

THE effort to develop a commercially viable battery-powered car could get a big boost within weeks, if the Big Three United States automakers follow through with plans to establish a joint electric vehicle consortium.

The clock is ticking for the auto industry. Starting in 1998, California legislators have mandated that 2 percent of every automaker's fleet be "zero-emission vehicles." For the moment, electric vehicles, or EVs, are the only practical way to meet that mandate. Yet current EV designs fall far short of consumer expectations.

The lead-acid batteries used in the General Motors Impact prototype yielded barely 100 miles per charge, required up to eight hours to recharge, and would need replacement every 30,000 miles, at a cost of more than $3,000. That is one reason GM recently pulled the plug on plans to put the Impact into high-volume production. "I can't understand why a rational consumer would want to buy an EV," says William Pochiluk of Autofacts Inc., a consulting firm.

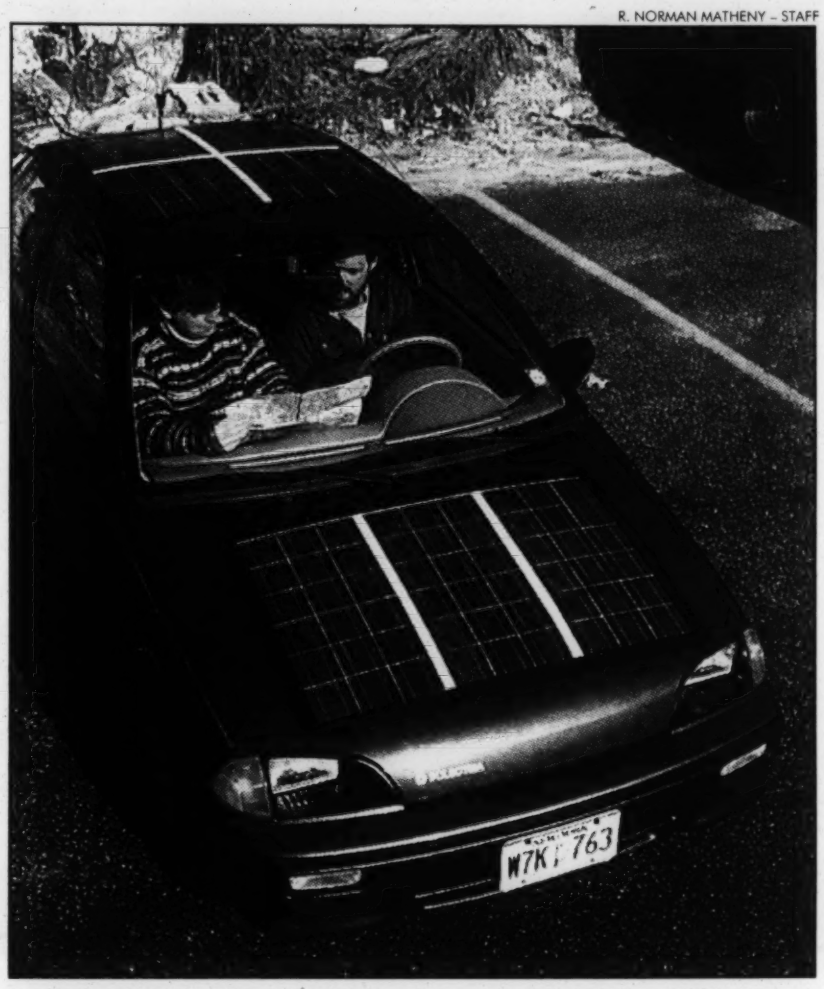
But come 1998, automakers will either have to find a way to sell EVs, nearly give them away, or abandon the California market, which accounts for almost 12 percent of US motor-vehicle sales.

For years, the Big Three were barred from cooperating with one another. But revised federal antitrust laws permit the domestic manufacturers to establish "precompetitive" consortiums devoted to advanced research. One of these is the US Advanced Battery Consortium (USABC).

Last year, USABC handed out its first development contract, for $18.5 million, to Energy Conversion Devices Inc. Initial research suggests the Michigan firm's "Ovonic" nickel metal hydride battery could deliver about 250 miles of range per charge – or theoretically as much as 400 miles. Made of non-toxic, recyclable chemicals, the Ovonic battery can be charged in 15 minutes. The battery also might last the life of the vehicle, markedly reducing operating expenses.

USABC has since awarded grants for research on other advanced-battery formulations, such as Lithium Polymer, which may someday allow EVs to deliver the range, acceleration, and creature comforts (air conditioning, etc.) found in conventional internal-combustion engines.

R. NORMAN MATHENY – STAFF



ELECTRIC POWER: *California legislators have mandated that by 1998, 2 percent of automakers' fleets be zero-emission vehicles, like this car powered by solar panels and developed by Solectria Corp. in Wilmington, Mass.*

But with individual EV programs dragging on, and no clear solution at hand, General Motors Corporation, Ford Motor Company, and Chrysler Corporation officials have quietly been discussing ways to expand their joint EV efforts.

When talks began in December, the Big Three proposed a modest venture to share research on the development of high-performance motors, lightweight body panels, and other EV components. But the focus quickly broadened, and they may now announce a project in which they will design and even build EVs at a jointly operated plant. "As you can imagine, getting these behemoths to agree on anything isn't easy, especially the idea of working on a full vehicle," says John R. Wallace, Ford's director of EV Technology Development.

Early this month, Ford Chairman Harold "Red" Poling sped up the process, announcing that he hoped the details of the proposed consortium would be put together by the end of June. Mr. Poling's timing took almost everyone by surprise, including those negotiating the project. But it has gotten things moving.

"Something will happen this month," Mr. Wallace says.

One hurdle for the consortium could be the anti-trust law. It will need to be stretched to allow the Big Three to jointly assemble automobiles. A well-placed industry lobbyist in Washington suggests that the automakers have been working to win government support in meetings with President Clinton and administration officials. "The fix has got to be in," the lobbyist says, "otherwise, I can't believe Poling would have been so confident."

A joint project would likely mean significant savings for GM, Ford, and Chrysler. They could pick and choose the best technology each has developed so far. GM, for example, has come up with fast and highly efficient motors. Chrysler has developed a "regenerative" braking system that can capture energy and use it to recharge batteries.

But developing the right battery will be vital. Until that happens, automakers may have to rely on financial incentives to make EVs more attractive to customers.

Hit With Massive Layoffs, Australian Banks Shift Focus

New technology, foreign competition, and revenue pressures cause major cutbacks

By Catherine Foster
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

SYDNEY

SEVERAL Australian banks are undergoing a major shake-up. Commonwealth Bank of Australia recently announced it would lay off 8,000 workers over the next two years. Westpac Bank will trim 8,000 over the same period. And ANZ Bank expects to let go 2,000 this year, with an equal number of job losses over the next few years.

So far, about 20 percent of banking industry employees have lost their jobs in the last three years. "The layoffs are so substantial because there's great pressure to generate revenue," says Craig Drummond, a banking analyst with J. B. Were, an investment banking firm. "There's no asset growth and a lot of company pressure building on interest margins."

Competition and new technologies also are having an impact on layoffs. In 1985, Australia began to open its doors to foreign banks. Now, banks from countries as diverse as Korea and Greece compete for niche markets alongside Australia's own banks.

The recession has hit Australia hard and banks are reflecting a larger trend to cut costs and deal with competition by getting back to basics; some, like Westpac, are closing offshore operations and concentrating on better serving Australian customers at home.

The recession has hit Australia hard and banks are reflecting a larger trend to cut costs and deal with competition by getting back to basics.

Westpac, after several years of turbulence and many changes of its chief executive officer, seems to have buckled down with American Robert Joss, formerly of Wells Fargo Bank. "The bank's target by 1995 is to reduce expense-to-income ratio to 58 percent. And we're well on target," says Rod Metcalfe, a Westpac spokesman.

Technological changes are playing a key role in the massive shedding. Bank personnel is becoming redundant because of the rise of EFTPOS (electronic funds transfer at point of sales), where people pay for purchases in markets and gas stations, and because of telephone banking and the explosion of automatic teller machines (ATMs).

Australians are big users of ATMs: 3,500 people for every ATM. In the United States, it is 2,700 per ATM, according to the Australian Bankers Association.

Australia has more branches per capita than many countries. With 7,500 bank and building society branches, there is about one for every 2,300 people, versus one for every 3,000 in Britain.

Major banks say they would like to get rid of excess branches, but with property prices down, instead they are working on giving branches a new focus. Westpac's Mr. Joss says he wants to see greater emphasis on sales and service.

All the banks are moving much of the processing work that used to be done in branches to central facilities. "So staff only has to deal with customers and their needs," says Lyndell Deves, chief manager of group communications for Commonwealth Bank. "That's the real reason why staff numbers will reduce over the next two years."

This centralizing process has been happening overseas, but Australia is only now catching up.

"Most of the changes are structural industry changes that really should have happened three or four years ago but didn't because banking conditions were buoyant at the time," Mr. Drummond says. "Banks didn't reduce staff levels as they should have, [and] now that there's a lot of pressure on revenue, it's a good excuse for paring back."

HABITAT

Orchids Have 'Fatal Attraction' For Some Fans

Possessive collectors endanger wild varieties

GREENERY: *Paphiopedilum emerald 'gloria van monster' belongs to a genus native to Asian tropics.*

By Christopher Andreae
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

ORCHIDS inspire the love – sometimes the obsessional passion – of collectors, amateur growers, professional hybridists, growers, traders, artists, travelers, photographers, botanists, and horticulturalists.

And all these orchid enthusiasts may – or may not – also be conservationists.

Questions of conservation come into sharp focus with orchids. Of all plants, they bring into confrontation humanity's desire for possession and nature's need for protection. Only cacti have a similarly fatal attraction to collectors – and illegal traders.

Wild orchids are still being discovered, and new beauties can command surprising prices.

According to Ger van Vliet, plants officer for CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), plants as well as animals were covered by the convention from the start, but only since the late 1980s have CITES regulations for plants begun to be effective. Mr. van Vliet spoke on the possible conflict between international trade in orchids and conservation of the plants at the recent Glasgow World Orchid Conference and Show. First signed in 1973, today CITES has 119 countries as signatories.

The cooperation of the countries involved, and their customs officers, has been stimulated by several successful prosecutions of illegal traders who were smuggling and dealing in endangered orchids. In 1989, Henry Azadehdel was imprisoned in Britain for this. Van Vliet knows of "several cases of confiscations recently in the United States." While European countries, slower to change, are "now moving in the right direction," Australia "does not hesitate to put anybody in jail for two years who goes against the legislation for both animals and plants," he says.

Illegal importation of orchids, van Vliet says, "is mainly concentrated in the US." He also mentions the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium, and Japan as markets.

In his conference talk, van Vliet called on orchid society members "to suppress that feeling of desire to possess a rare species, if that would be to the detriment of the survival of the species concerned."

He said that "many orchid enthusiasts ... sincerely believe in conservation. But when they go to the countries of origin of their beloved species, many ... seem to forget that idealism."

Orchids fall under two CITES appendixes:

Appendix I includes all the species of which trade in specimens of wild origin is permitted only in exceptional circumstances.

Appendix II contains the species of which commercial or personal trade in wild specimens is permitted, on the condition that the country of export issues an export permit.

SPECIAL-CASE, endangered orchids are covered by Appendix I. But *all* orchids are covered by Appendix II, even hybrids. Hybrids are included because the recognition of individual species is difficult and also because part of the aim of the convention was to monitor trade in orchids generally. But Appendix II listing does not mean that trade is prohibited. It means bureaucracy: filling out forms.

Trading in nursery-propagated orchids is legal. Since seedlings are grown in flasks, such "clean" material cannot be confused with jungle-collected plants, and international trade in flasked seedlings of even Appendix I species is not a problem.

Van Vliet wants to "facilitate trade in artificially propagated plants," he says, without "drowning in bureaucratic systems."

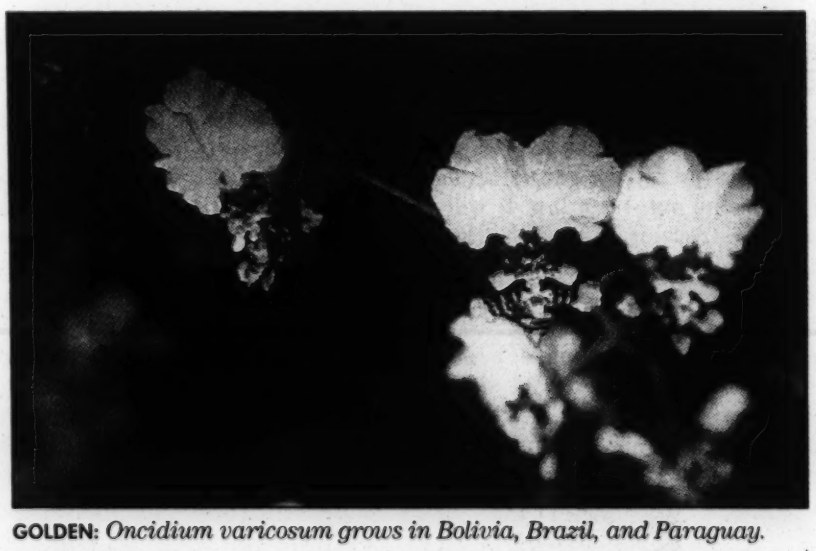
But Michael Tibbs, director of a British company that breeds and trades in orchids, the Exotic Plant Co. Ltd., says he finds that "a lot of people" say CITES is "a demon." Before he set up in business on his own, he "worked for a big company ... and, I can assure you, they think CITES is the worst thing that ever happened."

It isn't that such objectors don't understand CITES regulations, he argues. "It's because they ... always do things at the last minute."

Mr. Tibbs concedes that if you "work the system" – as he does – "and a pretty long and

Enthusiasts Flock to Tropical Flower Show in Glasgow

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND



GOLDEN: *Oncidium varicosum grows in Bolivia, Brazil, and Paraguay.*

ONCE every three years, droves of people converge on a chosen place somewhere in the world to pay international homage to one of the most varied, strange, sometimes incredibly exotic, sometimes almost unnoticeably reticent of flowering plants: the orchid.

The World Orchid Conference and Show (WOC) is a chance to meet other orchid lovers and an opportunity for growers to display the latest hybrids and compete for prizes. These growers may be amateurs clubbed together in societies, large nonprofit organizations like the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, Jersey (which walked away with more awards than anyone else this year), or professional nurserymen who breed and sell orchids.

For such specialists, the WOC offers publicity and a chance to sell plants or flask-grown seedlings. On the conference side, there are lectures and seminars and shows of slides. And this year's WOC emphasized conservation of possibly endangered wild orchids through lectures and in displays by botanic gardens such as Edinburgh and Kew (London).

Only two of the 14 extravaganzas of beautiful and bizarre plants with impossible names like Cypripedium and Dendrobium, Disa, Pleione, Paphiopedilum, and Phragmipedium – to name but a few – have taken place in Europe. Three years ago, the conference was in Auckland, New Zealand.

This year it was in Glasgow, Scotland (April 26 to May 2). The organizers expected (in addition to 1,300 delegates) about 20,000 visitors. But 30,000 came, more than demonstrating the potent allure of the orchid family. Show catalogs ran out.

Exhibitors from all over the globe participated: Brazil, Denmark, Germany, Japan (more from that country than at any previous WOC), Malaysia, Switzerland, the United States, South Africa, and many other countries. One young man from Russia, Igor Belitsky, exhibited his specialist plants: jewel orchids. These are treasured, not for their glorious flowers but for their remarkably patterned foliage **(see story at far right)**.

One section in the vast display area was devoted to orchids with fragrance, and, for the first time in Europe, fragrance judging was part of the competition.

Most of the orchids on show were hybrids. Orchids hybridize very successfully because of a high degree of compatibility between the species: The number of different registered hybrids today is approaching 100,000.

Orchids grow wild in every corner of the world. Estimates of the number of wild species range from 25,000 to 30,000.

The orchid is a world flower; it warrants a world show. The latest WOC was spectacular and unforgettable. The 15th World Orchid Conference and Show will take place from Sept. 14 to 24, 1996, in Rio de Janeiro.

– C. A.

PHOTOS BY REUTERS

FLAME BALL: *Epidendrum 'Joseph Lii' is one of more than a thousand species in tropical America.*

tedious system it can be, especially because you have to write out applications for every species," you find that "you have no problems."

Van Vliet confirms this. "The people who are doing the illegal trade know very well ... what risks they are taking, and they try to go round it, partly to get the plants and partly also for tax reasons."

Asked if CITES is now having a curbing effect on illegal trade, Tibbs replies: "Sort of."

COUNTRIES that are party to CITES vary in the degree to which they implement it, and there are countries, Tibbs says, where you can get a CITES permit by giving "a backhander" to the right official.

But Noel McGough, conservation officer at Kew (Britain's Royal Botanic Gardens), acknowledges that "paperwork is a problem" for even honest nurserymen. The system still needs fine-tuning "so that you don't penalize" legal traders, he says.

Mr. McGough adds that experts like himself do not find it hard to differentiate between wild-collected and propagated orchids. Wild plants bear "the marks of the jungle."

Though "some nurseries in the tropics do grow plants outside as well, they are still from a fairly managed environment, sprayed and so forth," McGough says. Also, CITES officials "look at and know nurseries overseas." They can recognize material from such sources.

Familiarity with newly discovered and named species is also essential for those implementing CITES. McGough says that "if you have an orchid which has only been described a year ago, and you see a full-grown flowering plant of it, you know ... it's wild-collected."

CITES covers animals as well as plants. McGough says that "across the board in conservation, [plants] are treated as second-rate citizens. Everybody identifies with a panda."

Or, as van Vliet puts it, "You can't have a cactus as a pet."

Maybe that's not quite true of orchids. Orchid collectors love them so intensely that they pay extraordinary prices for a newly found species. Until it becomes a legitimate nursery-raised, mass-produced plant, traders will do almost anything to obtain it in the wild: It's a fast buck, since growing orchids from seed can be a lengthy process. In the meantime, a wild species can be in extreme danger of becoming too many people's favorite plant-pet.

For This Young Russian Grower, Orchids' Charm Is in Their Leaves

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND

'USUALLY people think of orchids for their huge, magnificent flowers," Igor Belitsky says, "and think that plants without flowers are a bit ugly and not interesting."

But this young orchid grower from Moscow doesn't agree. Mr. Belitsky specializes in orchids with beautiful leaves but whose flowers he describes as "not significant."

Such orchids come – as displayed in his small presentation of them at the World Orchid Show here – in two groups. One group is known as "jewel orchids." Although some of their flowers are fragrant, they are not what Belitsky would call of any "use as cut flowers." Sometimes they help him identify the precise species of a jewel orchid. But "in some cases we ... cut away the appearing flower stalk in order not to spoil the decorativeness of the plant itself," he says.

The other group Belitsky and his colleague Nikolai Bersenev grow consists of a cross-section of different well-known species that are usually grown for their flowers, but of which individuals have been found with variegated leaves: They may be variegated dendrobiums, cymbidiums, or paphiopedilums.

Originally found in the wild and then brought into cultivation, particularly in Japan, these variegated forms deserve to be better known in Western countries, Belitsky says. To him they are a symbol of the aesthetic and philosophical attitudes of the Orient, which he suggests the West needs "to approach" more for its own good.

Jewel orchids are his primary interest, however. The term includes such genera as Anoectochilus, Goodyera, Ludisia, Erythrodes, and others. Generally very small, the plants are usually no more than five or six inches in height.

Belitsky waxes lyrical about the spectacular character of their leaves:

"Looking at the leaves you can imagine yourself in a jewelry shop – the leaf is like a plush or velvet cover [its color can be green, red-brown, brown, or black] on which all these necklaces, diamonds and other precious things are displayed." The extraordinary, intricate patterns of veins are what strike people on first encounter with these unusual plants.

In the 19th century, jewel orchids were at their peak of popularity in Europe as cultivated plants. Many species were then listed, virtually all of them long since vanished from cultivation. Belitsky reckons their special needs and demand for extra care account for this neglect – and, maybe, the "laziness" of growers.

Perhaps changing taste has something to do with it, too. They were valued as table decorations in Victorian times. Belitsky hopes to revive interest in them today, and is sure there is already a trend in that direction.

BY force of circumstance, Belitsky is an amateur grower. But "my dream," he says, "is to start an orchid-growing business in Moscow" when the financial climate improves.

He has publicized his own jewel orchids abroad and sold some: in Rome in 1991, in Japan last year, as well as in Glasgow this spring. More than 12 years of growing jewel orchids has give him expertise. He advises newcomers on the most important factors of growing – medium or substrate, temperature, and light.

Belitsky has also had some success with hybridizing, and he is keen to continue, since little is known about the intricacies of hybridizing for foliage patterns rather than flowers. He has crossed two Ludisias to produce a third, which combines desirable features from each: One has fine veining, the other fragrance in the flower. "Thus obtained," he says, "was a dark-leaved hybrid with fragrant flowers."

His other concern with these jewel orchids is that they are increasingly depleted in the wild (their main populations are in Asian countries). His aim is to select, collect, and propagate more of them, using microclonal techniques if possible, to ensure survival of his favorite plant.

– C. A.

BROWN JEWEL: *Russian grower Igor Belitsky holds his Anoectochilus roxburghii 'Igor' hybrid.*

FOOD

Sculpting Pies, Tarts, Tortes, Or Simply Sugar

By Kirsten A. Conover
Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

BOSTON

IT'S 8 a.m. in the pastry kitchen at Le Meridien Hotel in Boston, time for Pascal Lachaud to take inventory.

"The first thing I do is check to see that everything is here, nothing is missing," says the *chef patîssier*, surveying a collection of three-tiered silver dessert trays.

"Today was a good day for you to come," he tells me in his French accent, as we dodge busy dishwashers. "Today will be slower than usual."

After a quick tour of the kitchen and the formal dining room – restaurant Julien – Chef Lachaud walks into the Café Fleuri, largely populated by power-breakfasting business crowd.

He stops at two glass cases that display sugar sculptures he created. Shiny and brilliant, the sculptures don't look like they could possibly be made from sugar. Rather they look like glass or plastic.

Lachaud explains that they are made through a process not unlike glassblowing – it involves intensely heating a mixture of sugar, water, and acid; then working it – pulling it – over and over until it is just right for sculpting. It is this artistic endeavor that is Lachaud's biggest passion. His sculptures have won many awards and been presented at "Salon Culinaires" throughout France.

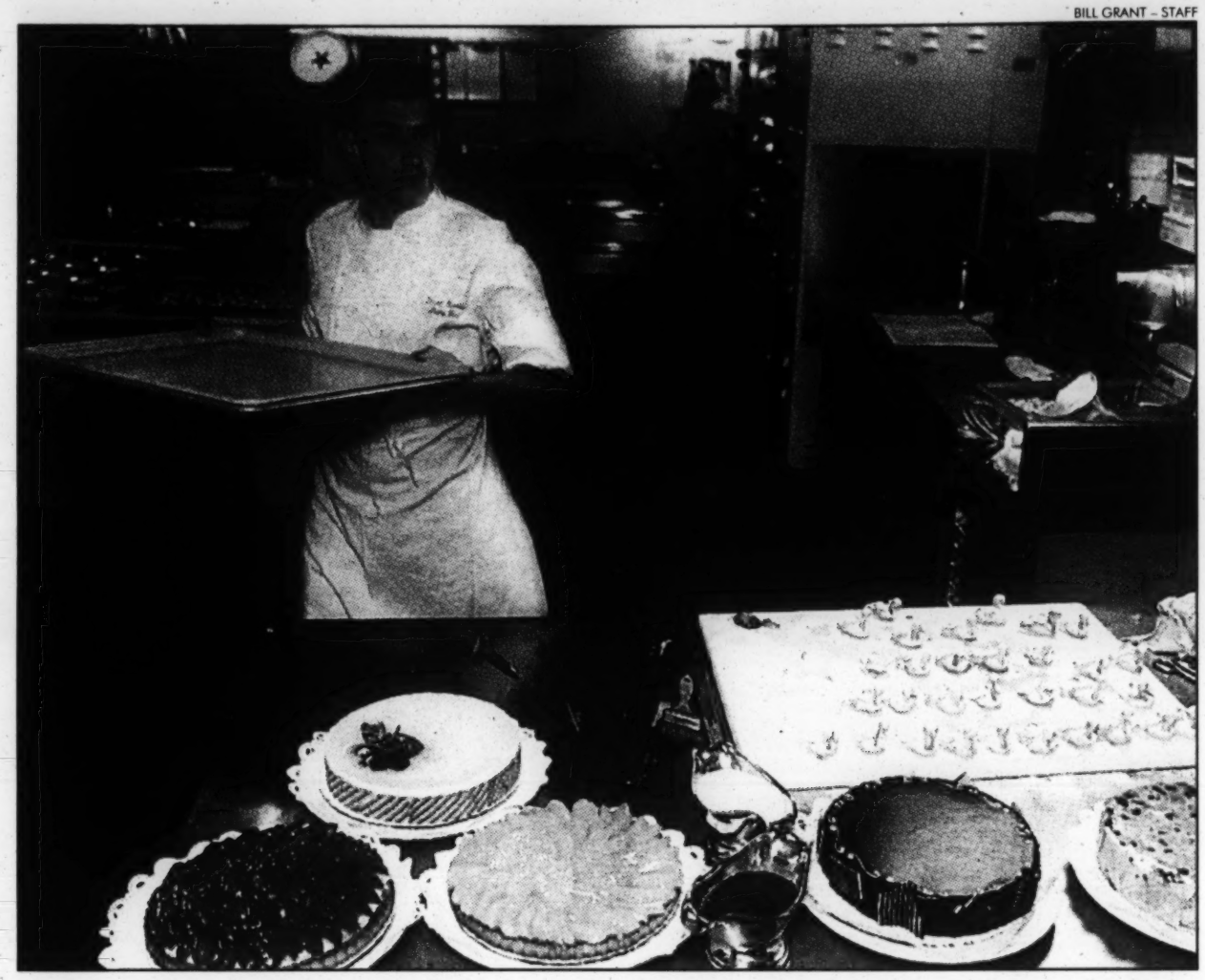
Back to the pastry kitchen.

All along the pale yellow walls are rings, molds, and whisks so large they could stir up a small swimming pool. A special oven lightly bakes tartlet crusts. A high shelf stocks dry ingredients, such as chocolate chips, brown sugar, and almonds, in large plastic containers. Flour and sugar are in 50-pound sacks in garbage-pail-size containers. The walk-in refrigerator is filled with crates of cream, butter, and eggs. The freezer holds pre-made cakes and petit fours soon to be dressed up, decorated, and served.

Pastry worker Don Maliani has been here since 5 a.m., preparing breads and pastries for the café. Assistant pastry chef Gina Cosentino rolls in more ingredients to stock the refrigerator, then starts mixing melted chocolate in a giant metal bowl.

All the sweets here take one of four routes: restaurant Julien, Café Fleuri, banquets, or room service. With a staff of six, "We can do everything right, everything maximum perfect," Lachaud says.

BILL GRANT – STAFF



PASCAL LACHAUD: *Le Meridien hotel's pastry chef gears up for the day's demand. Artistic presentation is his forte.*

Lachaud received his pastry degree at École Hôtellerie de la Chaise-Dieu and went on to work at Paris restaurants and hotels, several of which acquired Michelin-star status. (Before Boston, he was pastry chef at the Hotel Meridien Piccadilly in London.)

"He's definitely the pastry chef you'd want to finish any entrée with class and style," says Meridien sous-chef Charlie Prentis. "He's dedicated to what he does, and he takes things that step further presentation-wise ... he makes the difference."

As we talk in the kitchen, Lachaud prepares petit fours. Taking small tartlet shells, he fills them with pastry cream, tops them with fruit – such as an orange slice and a kiwi slice – then finishes with apricot glaze. He also decorates three cakes – chocolate with praline cream, *nougatine* mousse, and peach.

Many people are surprised to find out the amount of freezing done by this kitchen. But such a practice is traditional in France, notes Ms. Cosentino. "Yesterday I made 24 cakes."

There is a big difference between the pastry done for a hotel and pastry done for a restaurant, Lachaud explains. When you work for a restaurant, you are focused only on one place. In a hotel, there are more outlets. Whereas a restaurant would focus on 10 to 15 different desserts; here, the capabilities must be for 70 to 80 desserts.

Indeed, even day-to-day quantities can change. This particular Wednesday, one corporate luncheon doubled its seating at the last minute – from 22 people to 64 people. That's not unusual, Lachaud says.

Speaking of feeding the masses, I ask Lachaud what he thinks about "bad pastry" such as on airplanes. Everyone can recall recent flights' fare: the dry carrot cake with gluey frosting, the lemon sponge cake that tasted like a sponge, the wooden cookie.

Lachaud frowns and says that pastrymakers have some work to do to educate the public. While airline food in general seems to have gotten better, he observes, "pastry – every time it's horrible."

If there is one word to describe the challenge Lachaud sees in his job as executive pastry chef, it would be change. "When you do the same thing every day, it can be boring for everybody," he acknowledges. So Lachaud is always thinking in terms of new presentation, new combinations, much like a choreographer might think in terms of originality in dance.

Take for example the Meridien's Saturday "chocolate bar," an all-you-can-eat buffet of 25 different chocolate desserts, voted "Best Indulgence" by the editors of Boston Magazine. (Imagine chocolate cakes, mousses, tortes, crêpes, cookies, pies, chocolate fondue, and more.) Every two months Lachaud takes almost everything off the menu and creates a totally new selection. "It's good for us, the challenge," Lachaud says. Mr. Maliani can vouch for him: "When he says he likes to change things, he really changes things."

Lachaud is always devising new desserts and presentations, much like a choreographer might aim for originality in dance.

Keeping track is not a problem. Lachaud documents his work by taking photos. He shows one of his many photo albums that reveals sugar sculptures, chocolate delights, and dashing desserts of all kinds and colors, for holidays and every day.

Lest we forget what they are for (eating), Lachaud stresses: "Taste is the most important."

FRUIT TART

FOR PÂTé SUCRéE (SWEET CRUST):
2 tablespoons sugar
5 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 egg
1 cup flour

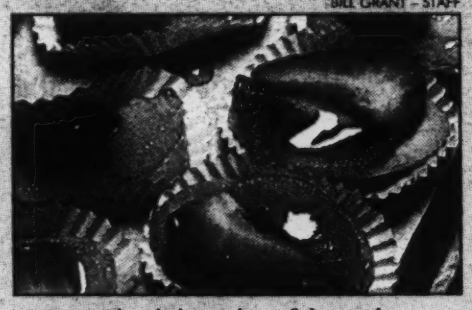
FOR CRÈME PÂTISSIÈRE (PASTRY CREAM):
1-1/4 cup milk
1/3 cup sugar
3 tablespoons cornstarch
3 egg yolks
1/2 cup whipped cream
2-3 pints fresh sliced fruit, such as strawberries

For the sweet crust: Cream together sugar and butter. When light, add egg, then flour, and combine to form dough. Refrigerate dough for one hour before rolling out.

For the pastry cream: In a saucepan, bring milk just to a boil. In a bowl, combine sugar, cornstarch, and egg yolks. Gradually add milk to yolk mixture. Stir until combined. Pour mixture back in the saucepan, and bring just to a second boil, stirring constantly. (Mixture should thicken and be smooth.) Remove from heat, and pour into a bowl. Cover with plastic wrap, making sure that the plastic wrap touches the entire surface of the pastry cream. Refrigerate until ready to use.

Roll out pâté sucrée on floured surface to 1/8-inch thickness. Place in greased tart tin, and refrigerate for 1/2 hour.

BILL GRANT – STAFF



TARTLETS: *A mini version of the recipe.*

Blind bake tart tin for approximately 20 minutes in a 350-degree F. oven. (Note: To blind bake – or keep shell flat while baking – prick pastry, then line with piece of foil cut slightly larger than pan. Press foil onto bottom and up side. Fill with dried beans or uncooked rice to weight pastry down so it doesn't puff. After baking, remove beans or rice and foil, prick pastry again, and return it to oven until golden.) Cool on rack until ready to fill. Whip cold pastry cream until smooth. Fold in whipped cream. Spread into tart shell.

Cover pastry cream with fresh fruit and serve.

To finish the tart, you can glaze the fruit with melted-down apricot preserves.

– Recipe courtesy of Pascal Lachaud, pastry chef at the Hotel Meridien, Boston

ARTS

PHOTOS BY MARK CARDWELL/REUTERS

PACHYDERMS ON PARADE: *The elephants' antics, one of 19 Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus acts, will entertain several million people in dozens of cities this year.*

Even Blasé New Yorkers Cheer the Circus

By Joseph Deitch
Special to The Christian Science Monitor

NEW YORK

CIRCUS publicists are not shy about using words such as stupendous, colossal, and electrifying, just as Phineas T. Barnum did 123 years ago. In the 1993 version of Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, which stopped at Madison Square Garden here recently, those superlatives were echoed by audience members.

The old circus magic still works. Children squeal with delight and mock horror at the flying trapeze and ferocious lion acts. Adults still guffaw at the antics of clowns. Even blasé New Yorkers were roused to cheer performers such as Yuri Kaganovitch, whose quadruple somersault vaulted him into the grasp of fellow aerialist Viktor Mokroussov.

The all-new edition of the Ringling operation celebrates 200 years of circus in America. The concept began in Philadelphia as a one-ring clown show. This year, Ringling's 19 acts will entertain 11.5 million people in 90 cities.

Irvin Feld bought the circus from the Ringlings in 1967 for $8 million; his son Kenneth now oversees a global family-run entertainment enterprise.

Kenneth Feld says that children identify with the young performers, many of whom come from generations of circus performers. "For children, it is live spectacle, not something off a TV screen," he says.

The España brothers, Ivan and Noe, "daredevils extraordinaire," do back flips, headstands, and perform blindfolded 40 feet up. Ivan was born in Mexico City and says he has been with the circus all his life. "My brother and I like to do what is fun and dangerous, to push ourselves to new limits. We are five generations of a circus family, and so I was, you might say, raised everywhere."

Top clown David Larible looks a bit like President Clinton, even when he puts on his trademark red nose. Mr. Larible says clowns are always expected to laugh, even though they may be sad. "The standard painted grin helps convey laughter.... Clowns are supposed to be 100 percent funny all the time...."

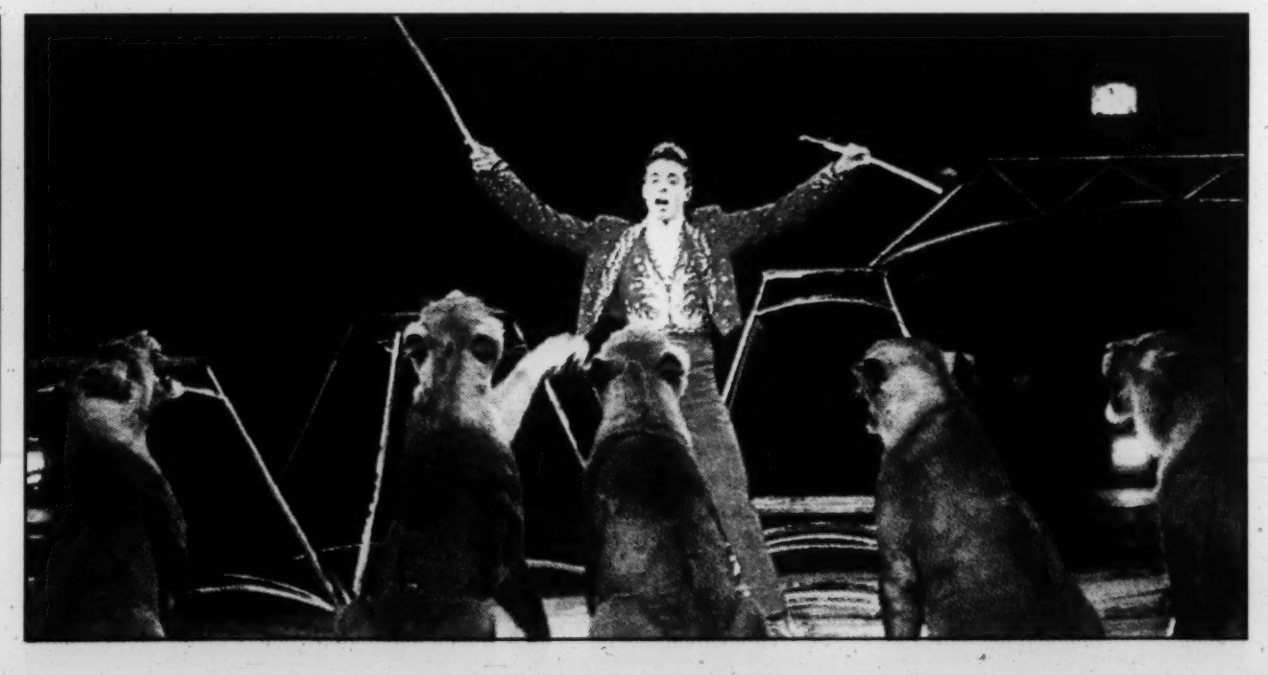
Larible says "To be a good clown requires every circus skill you can learn: acrobatics, juggling, music, mime, dance. When I told my father that I wanted to be a clown, he said I chose the hardest work of all."

Graham Thomas Chipperfield is a slim, almost boyish Englishman whose best friends, he says, are the collection of lions with whom he socializes every day. He says Chipperfields began training animals 300 years ago, and that he learned his act from his father. Mr. Chipperfield adds that his 10 lions respond better to traditional English traits like civility and grace under pressure.

Are his famous lions aware that they work for "The Greatest Show on Earth"?

"Indeed they are," Chipperfield says.

■ *Through June, the circus's Blue Unit (the unit reviewed above) tour includes: Des Moines June 18-20; Springfield, Ill., June 22-23; Cape Girardeau, Mo., June 25-27; and Texarkana, Ark., June 29-30. The Red Unit travels to Tulsa, Okla., June 17-19; Tucson, Ariz., June 23-27; and Phoenix June 29-July 5.*



UNDER THE BIG TOP: *Joshua Schulman (above) clowns around with a young audience member. Lion expert Graham Thomas Chipperfield (right) comes from a long line of animal trainers. Chipperfield, who calls the lions his best friends, learned his act from his father.*

WORTH NOTING ON TV

By Alan Bunce

■ THURSDAY

PrimeTime Live *(ABC, 10-11 p.m., E.T.):* Despite its name, the weekly news magazine is offering a taped interview with Manuel Noriega – the first long one given by the ex-Panamanian dictator since he surrendered to United States officials on Jan. 3, 1990. The interview was conducted by Diane Sawyer May 19 inside Miami's Metropolitan Correctional Center. Among other revelations, Noriega tells how he felt when he was handcuffed and led away ("consumed by wrath. The unfairness of the big against the little.... No danger, regardless of its size, justifies the killing of the civilian population.").

■ FRIDAY

The Story of Lady Bird Johnson *(PBS, 10-11 p.m.):* Areas of "special interest" to America's first ladies often lose their visibility once the next president takes over. In the case of Lady Bird Johnson – as shown in this broad and detailed portrait – that didn't happen. Her focus was on conservation and on what has been called "beautification" – a pursuit far more basic and useful than suggested by that somewhat Victorian term. As a result of her work during Lyndon Johnson's presidency (1963-69), Mrs. Johnson had a lasting impact on the physical appearance of public areas. She has also been an effective businesswoman. It's been said she could read a balance sheet the way many people read the comics. And she remains – at age 80 – an important figure in conservation.

Her other achievements – such as helping launch the Head Start program – are also explored, but the program goes beyond this to examine the woman herself. Built around a sometimes frank interview with Mrs. Johnson, the documentary traces her life from girlhood in a little Texas town to the time she met and married the charismatic politician who later became president. As first lady, she prevailed on her husband to shun a second elective term, and when he sprang the historic announcement on the country ("I will not seek, and I will not accept" the nomination) the words he used were apparently hers.

Please check local listings for these programs, especially on PBS.

Melodrama on the Meaning of Love

By Laurel Shaper Walters

DURING the early years of her writing career, Sue Miller was often dismissed as a writer of lesser-quality, popular fiction. Now she is being praised as an incisive chronicler of the American family.

Miller, who writes about the intricacies of contemporary relationships, has never shied away from sensitive issues.

Her first novel, "The Good Mother," dealt with a mother's custody battle for her daughter and was made into a movie.

"Family Pictures," Miller's second novel, told the story of a large family working to accommodate an autistic son. It became a prime-time television miniseries. Hollywood's interest in Miller's writing seems to have given her credibility with the critics.

Her third novel, "For Love," is being lauded as a skillful and serious exploration of the life of the modern family. The novel tracks the emotional ups and downs of baby boomer Lottie Gardner in her roles as mother, sister, daughter, wife, and friend.

Lottie has returned one summer to her hometown of Cambridge, Mass., to pack up her widowed mother's house after she has moved into a nursing home. Lottie's 20-year-old son comes along to lend a hand.

A freelance writer in her mid-40s, Lottie is in her first year of a troubled second marriage. She has returned to her old neighborhood in order to escape from the present but ends up running headlong into her past.

Her childhood neighbor Elizabeth also has returned home for the summer. Elizabeth, too, is escaping a troubled marriage. Lottie's brother, Cameron, was a high-school sweetheart of Elizabeth's, and they spend the summer rekindling their romance.

This is a modern love story carrying all the complexity of today's step-families, affairs, multiple marriages, and separations. The book often reads like the plot of a soap opera.

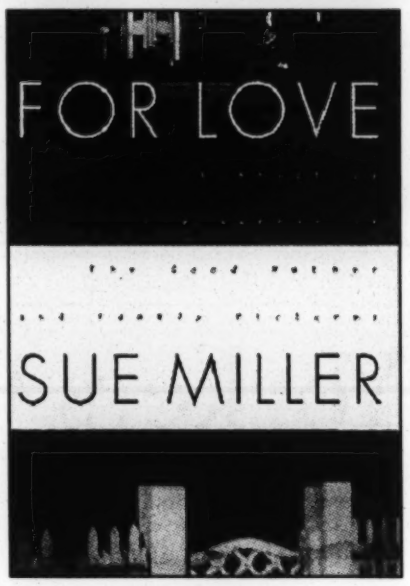
Yet Miller is a strong writer with an eye for detail and a gift for evocative dialogue. She draws readers in through detailed descriptions and carefully crafted characters.

Miller has a facility for you-are-there scene-setting. Take, for example, this picture of a shared lunch between Lottie and her son, Ryan, during a break from their work on the house.

"Lottie sets the bag, the seltzer and glasses, on the stoop and steps back up into the kitchen's sudden dark to get salt and pepper and a sharp knife. When she opens the screen door again, Ryan is just sitting down, opening the bag. Lottie lowers herself next to him on the stoop. Her knees creak audibly. 'Want to go halvesies?' she asks."

Although the writing is strong, the structure of the novel fails to hold together. It loses much of its impetus through a prologue describing the tragic accident around which the book centers. Once the outcome is revealed, it's difficult patiently to read through pages of buildup to the event.

BOOKS



FOR LOVE
By Sue Miller
HarperCollins
301 pp., $23

As she did in her previous novels, Miller has written a book with great emotional punch. "For Love" probes the meaning of 20th-century love and speaks frankly. But unlike Miller's other books, "For Love" takes on a tone of melodrama.

Lottie is searching for the meaning of love. She is doing research for a magazine article on the subject, and while out for a jog finds herself staring into other people's windows.

"She's like some creature from outer space, she thinks. Some Martian, reading her books, staring in through windows, trying to figure out what it means to be human. *What is this thing, called love?*"

For those in search of light summer reading, "For Love" may be tempting. But if you don't want to wallow in the wreckage of modern relationships, think twice before choosing this one.

■ *Laurel Shaper Walters is on the Monitor staff.*

When Takeovers Turn Into Makeovers

SAN FRANCISCO

WHOEVER said that the more things change, the more they stay the same hadn't reckoned with mergers and takeovers.

Customers visiting Gump's, one of San Francisco's most loved institutions, are finding unsettling changes these days. In the luxury retailer's windows, small signs announce a clearance sale. On the first floor, display cases that once held magnificent jewelry – jade, emeralds, freshwater pearls – now stand almost empty. A similar barrenness characterizes the third floor, formerly filled with handsome furniture, lamps, and Asian antiques.

What the signs in the window don't explain is that this legendary store, which for seven generations has been synonymous with San Francisco, has been bought for an estimated $10 million by Horn & Hardart, a New Jersey company that once ran New York's Automat restaurants and now distributes mail-order catalogs.

To loyal Gump's fans, news of the sale can produce the same shock they experienced in 1978 when they heard that Avon was buying Tiffany's. At least that store still looks the same as it did when Audrey Hepburn strolled through it three decades ago in "Breakfast at Tiffany's." But here at the "Tiffany's of the West," as Gump's is known in the industry, major changes seem inevitable as new owners discontinue some of the traditional product lines that have always formed the heart of its business.

On the first day of the store's big sale three weeks ago, one customer told a local reporter, "I'm afraid this store will never be the same. It's too bad. The world is going K mart. You can't fight it." Last week customers and sales clerks alike still seemed shaken. Two well-dressed women, standing at a clearance table, looked visibly distressed as they asked a clerk, "Is it true the whole store is closing?" (No.)

What is true, sadly, is that 180 employees will be laid off. They can reapply, but no one knows how many will be rehired. Horn & Hardart has announced plans for "a downsizing" at the store, which has been plagued by losses in recent years.

Eras end regularly these days. That is not always bad – change has its virtues. But what is happening at places like Gump's symbolizes a seismic shift in retailing – a homogenization as family-owned stores get swallowed up by huge firms. Gump's itself has been owned by a Tokyo conglomerate since 1989.

Once upon a time, businesses were run by people intimately connected with the products they sold. In the case of Gump's, it was A. L. Gump, a son of the founder, who indulged his love for Oriental art by stocking his store with beautiful and exotic artifacts.

Now family-owned stores appear to be an endangered species. It takes a corporate family tree to keep track of parent companies and their widely scattered offspring. With the malling of America, one mall becomes almost indistinguishable from another, each filled with chain stores offering identical goods.

How remotely can mind and heart and body distance themselves from an enterprise without damaging that enterprise? Can the agri-businessmen operating in three-piece suits from a city skyscraper, watching their crops grow as dollar signs on a computer screen, ever know what a farmer knows with the dirt under his fingernails, smelling his crop? And can the financiers who now run publishing companies ever understand the book business the way the tweedy editors they have replaced do?

The merger-magicians buy a bakery, hire an ad agency to write copy praising old-fashioned pure ingredients, and employ an actor to twang about bakin' with a little bit of love. But could the new moguls bake a corn muffin if their lives depended on it?

As the marketplace grows daily more abstract, with the focus on spreadsheets rather than the goods themselves, the old hands-on connections are being lost between manufacturers and their products, between sellers and buyers. Manufacture by automation, shopping by interactive TV – this is the promise of the future. The supposition is: Who needs to meet the customers face to face when your computers can interface? Maybe. But first, somebody should check it out with the customers at Gump's and a thousand other stores who feel they have lost *their* store.

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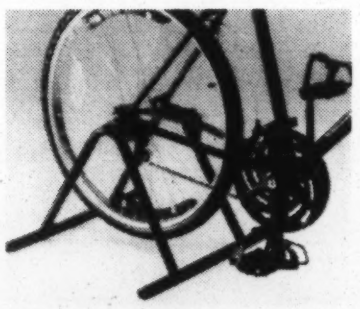

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The Home Forum.

To Say *Ashe*, Thank You, in Masai

PHOTOGRAPH BY BETTY PRESS

IN TRADITIONAL GARB: *Young Masai men near Isiolo, Kenya.*

NINETEEN-SEVENTY-THREE was not a good year to be a member of the Masai tribe. No rain had fallen in southern Kenya for over a year. The Masai depended on their cattle for about 90 percent of their diet. No rain, no cattle, and sooner or later – no Masai. Rain did not come until the early months of 1975. There were no late-night pleas on television or full-page ads showing children with potbellies and hungry eyes. Nor were there many people ready to put millions of dollars into temporary solutions. Relief organizations had not found their way to Kenya either.

My parents were missionaries back then, and we lived on the outskirts of Nairobi. Although there was no famine relief, my parents wanted to do what they could. I was nine years old the first time I went with my father to distribute food to a village that had been ravaged by famine. We loaded a Volkswagon minibus with as many hundred-kilo sacks of dried beans and corn as it would carry, and then we started out on a 60-mile drive to a place south of Kajiado, where we were to meet other missionaries who were coordinating the relief effort. They were waiting with a load of donated instant chocolate milk.

We left paved roads behind and drove across savannas with no grass, only scrub thornbush and widely scattered acacia trees. For me, this was still just another adventure in which I got to tag along with Dad.

We could smell the village from several hundred yards away; not the usual aroma of cow dung, woodsmoke, and goats. All those smells were there, but there was something else underneath it – what I later discovered was the smell of starvation.

As we pulled up, the people of the village gathered around the van. Most were wearing traditional dress; the men draped blankets over themselves in toga fashion, while beaded leather *shukas* covered the women from neck to mid-calf.

All wore smiles and shouted out the traditional greetings: "*Sopa! Sopa!*" Everyone had to be greeted individually, and we were repeatedly asked in Swahilli, "*Habari ya safari?*" or "How was your journey?"

As the greetings continued, we, along with a few Masai helpers, began organizing the food distribution and the anxious crowd that had quickly grown in numbers. Flies crawled everywhere. At times it was difficult to work because we had to use one hand to hand out the food and the other hand to wave the flies away from our faces. The Masai were not particularly concerned by the flies and let them roam about their faces freely.

The head of each household clutched a card that identified him to us so that no family could get more than one ration each week. Some card holders were barely in their teens and had recently become the oldest in the family.

There were those with no cards who were only trying to receive an extra portion. We didn't blame them, but we didn't give them the food either. We couldn't. With the meager food we had, we were only trying to help them stay alive.

I manned a burlap bag with a gallon-sized tin can and began scooping beans into baskets, plastic bags, or sometimes in the corner of a tied basket. Each week we handed out one can of corn, one can of beans, and four packets of chocolate milk to feed a family of four. Each one who passed whispered a single word, "*ashe*," which is Masai for "thank you."

It only took a couple of hours before we ran out of food.

Under a nearby tree the people sat down to sing hymns and listen to a short sermon delivered by a native pastor from Nairobi. The sermon had to be delivered in Swahilli and translated into Masai.

The combination of speaker and translator gave the message a rolling cadence that added fire and melody to the words, even though I could only understand half of them. When the service was over, people gathered around to discuss *mambo* – important matters. They almost always addressed my father as Olelashe (Brother) or as "The man with a beard like a goat."

'WHEN can you bring a doctor? Do you have medicine for malaria? May I ride with you to Nairobi to look for work?" As the elders spoke with my father, children would come silently up to him and nudge his legs with their foreheads. This was the proper way for them to greet him and receive his blessing. As he talked, he would lay his palm on top of each head presented. Sometimes a short exchange of greeting passed between them:

"*Ero.*"
"*Eh.*"
"*Soba.*"
"*Epa.*"
"*Habarinuo.*"
"*Sidai oleng.*"

Roughly translated, it went something like:

"Boy."
"Yes?"
"Greetings."
"Greetings."
"How old are you?"
"All is well."

Dad was very popular with the children because he almost always had a toddler in one arm, even when he was filling baskets. By watching him as he lovingly held the smelly, ragged, little children, I began to appreciate the depth of my dad's love for me.

After the meeting with the elders, we were invited to have *chai* (tea) in someone's house inside the village. It was the first Masai hut I had ever entered, and it resembled a huge loaf of wheat bread that stood about waist high. To build it, the women had made a framework of sticks and then plastered them with cow dung. The hut we were invited to was dark and cool, but I could barely breathe because of the smoke from a small cooking fire.

The conversation inside the hut was less formal. We could be serious or just swap jokes. The woman of the house boiled milk, sugar, water, and tea leaves in one pot to make a thick, sweet drink. Each of us was handed an enamelled tin mug of *chai* in order of strict seniority – from oldest to youngest. I loved the *chai* because it was strong, sticky, sweet, and tinged with smoke. But I felt guilty at the same time, because I knew that for this woman to offer me *chai* would mean that she would have one less cup for a hungry child of her own. Yet I drank it because I knew that declining her offer would be the ultimate insult. Later I figured out that if I drank slowly enough, the woman would not fill my cup so often.

It was late in the afternoon before we started home. The children's cries of "*Serenaduo*!" "Goodbye!" – rang in my ears. I sat in the back of the VW and said nothing.

During the year and a half that we distributed food, we helped save hundreds of lives. We lost thousands more. In the years that followed the famine, we returned to work with the Masai in agriculture. But it was that first day I participated in famine relief when I learned of love, of suffering, of pride, and most of all, equality. For all that, it was my turn to say "*Ashe*."

Byron R. Hall

ART NOW

The Symbolic Language of Abstraction

THE greatest Abstract Expressionist painters dripped, splattered, threw, and painted a whole new world onto canvas. Jackson Pollock broke with architechtonic space. The swirl of emotion, gesture, and the direct expression of a reality beyond what the senses record fell like rain from his brush. When asked why he did not paint from nature, the story goes, he replied, "I am nature."

It was more than an egotistical assertion. The expression of art could be understood as something more than "art-ificial." After Pollock, artistic expression had to be seen as a natural phenomenon just as grass growing.

The abstractions of Santa Fe artist Sam Scott are different in kind from Pollack's, but they, too, are direct and natural expressions. Scott's work comes out of an immediate response to nature, which is the source of his inspiration. The titles of his paintings, like "Earth Heart," "Pines and Rocks," "Bright Air," and "Like Wild Geese" speak to the natural phenomenon that generate so many of his ideas. He calls it "lyrical expressionism."

But while intuition is an important aspect of his painting, there is deliberate markmaking and intuitive picturemaking. Scott has developed a language of symbols that is instantly recognizable by most viewers, yet it is still mysterious and cunning. A recurring spiral-like form – broken and transformed – recalls ancient petroglyphs, traditional native American forms, Aboriginal art, and Robert Smithson's grand earthwork, "The Spiral Getty."

The spiral may represent a grasp of the eternal. Broken, it seems to suggest that we see only small pieces of the eternal at any one time – yet those pieces are still part of something greater than the sum of its parts.

In a recent interview, Scott discussed his private and universal symbols. He points out that the veins of a leaf are similar to the veins on the back of your hand, to a river delta, to a lighting bolt, and to a galaxy. There is great wonder and power in that pattern because of these associations, and that blazing mark shows up again and again in his work. We all know it when we see it, recognize the pattern immediately because it recurs throughout our lives, though we may fail to stop and think, "leaf, hand, lighting, delta."

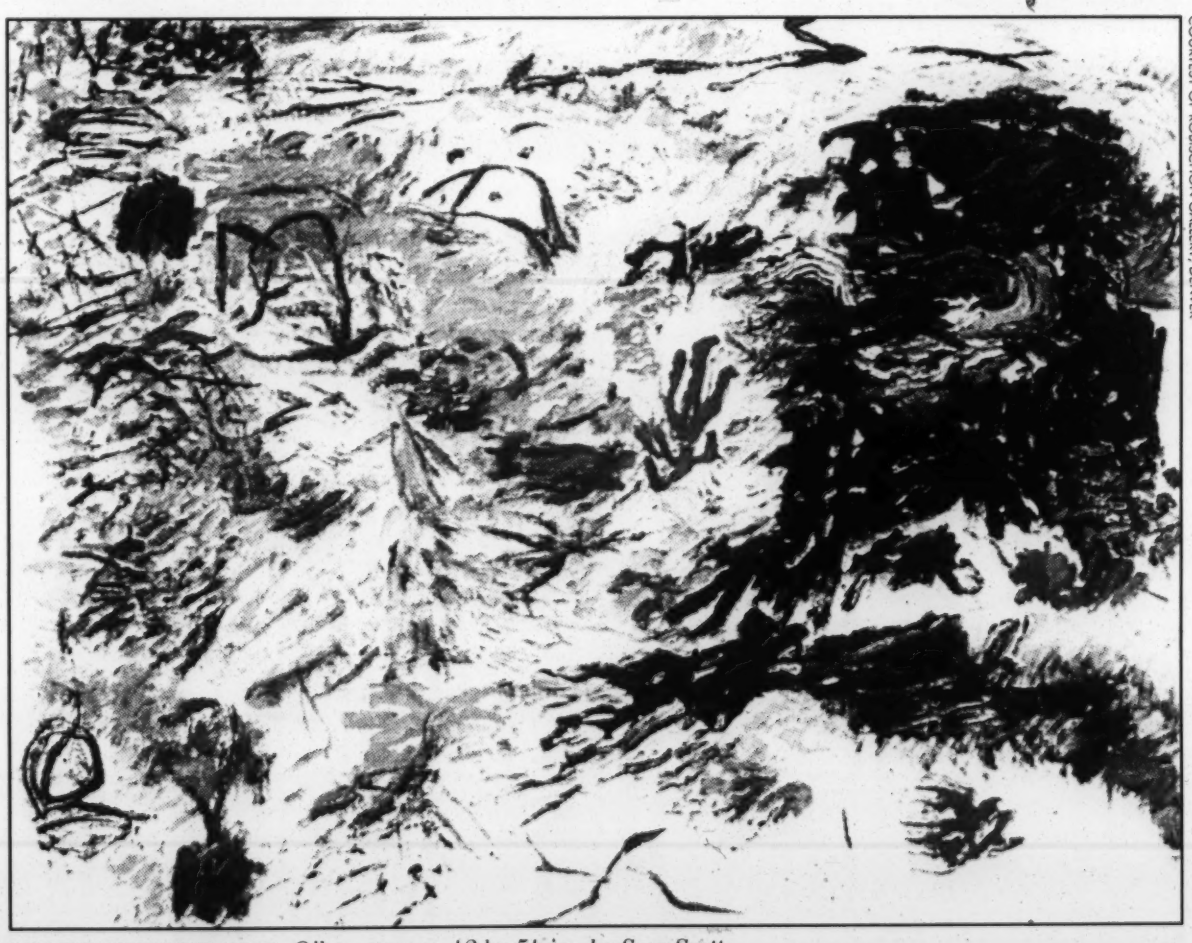
A rounded "M" form may call to mind the tablets of the Ten Commandments, birds in flight the way young children draw them, or a sign for mountains.

Yet there is much more to Scott's abstractions than their symbols. His markmaking may appear crude, but it is profoundly sophisticated. The handling of paint is ample, even lavish. The emotional bursts of color may seem brash at first glance, but on closer inspection they prove to be startling, rigorously intelligent, and right. There is just so much to look at in this work – so much more than a first glance can properly take in.

"I WANT the information to percolate out for a lifetime of enjoyment," Scott says. "If you are going to speak in a language of abstraction, then you are choosing to speak in a language of simultaneous realities. That's the joy and the richness of it. It's like any poem – there is a combination of circumstances. There is mystery: the rarity of a violet meeting a burnt sienna – lyrical and rare color. But [color] may have something to do with a way of understanding light as grace (in Dantesque terms). In other words, there may be all kinds of implications that take a while to see.

"I think of myself as a nature painter. What interests me is the idea of using nature as source – with a lyric voice that is essentially a celebratory voice. To rather choose an affirmation of the privilege of consciousness. I view painting as an act of reparation, an act of giving back to life," Scott says.

Marilynne Mason



COURTESY OF ROBISCHON GALLERY, DENVER

'LIKE THE WILD GEESE' (1993): *Oil on canvas, 42 by 54 in., by Sam Scott.*

Working for God

THE pavement in front of our house was torn up while crews replaced water mains. At each end of the street bright orange signs proclaimed, "Men Working." Traffic threaded between orange lane marker cones.

One afternoon when I cautiously backed my car out of the drive, the workmen quickly cleared a path for me. They smiled and waved. As I thought about how pleasant they were, I realized they also carefully watched over neighborhood children on the way to and from school. Talking with my friend next door that Saturday, we both noted their alertness and courtesy.

This reminded me of the prayer and study I had been doing over the past few months on the subject of work. I wanted to know what was the right concept of work, and what specifically should be my work? What I was learning about work through my prayer was enlightening. John's Gospel in the Bible, for example, tells us Christ Jesus said: "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." Jesus always directed our thought to the Father, God. And he explained that we need to understand God better if we wish to work more effectively. He went on to say of his own work: "The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do."

The Christian Science Monitor's Religious Article

Man is spiritual, created in the image and likeness of God, male and female. Skill and power, then, must be available to every individual as God's expression. Reasoning from this spiritual basis, we can see God's qualities expressed all around us. We reflect them ourselves. The competence and kindness of the workmen on our street was ready evidence of this, and I thanked God for showing it to me.

These observations alerted me to realize that I should resolutely claim Godlike qualities as my own. No child of God lacks the wisdom or ability to be active and useful. Any argument to the contrary stems from ignorance of God. His plan includes everyone's true nature and proper function.

Jesus explained his own mission clearly when he said: "I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me." Who could aspire to a better career than that of doing God's will? This thought prompted me to spend less time thinking about what special aptitudes I might possess and to pay more attention to recognizing opportunities to serve God.

Soon I found that several of my activities offered satisfying and ample means of doing God's will. I was discovering that the focus of honest efforts, and the expression of the spiritual qualities of wisdom, energy, and courage, provided me with abundant reward. My viewpoint expanded beyond habitual restrictions. I was gaining forward momentum as I got my thinking out of the rut of believing I didn't have anything to offer.

Mary Baker Eddy, who founded this newspaper, says in her book *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures*, "Working and praying with true motives, your Father will open the way." It really happens.

Long ago, doing certain jobs would cause me to have frequent headaches and to become very fatigued. I learned, however, that God never sends us burdens or penalties. And Christian Science showed me that God's law of harmonious activity eliminates tension. I'm grateful to be able to do these same tasks now without suffering either headaches or fatigue.

One morning I hailed one of the workmen on our street and asked him to thank the crew for me and my neighbors. He gave me a big smile and agreed to share the message, which he called "a day brightener." Daily and hourly we see people doing their tasks with grace and efficiency, at the store, the gas station, the office, everywhere. Good work!

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"First the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear."

Keep the Lid on A-Tests

EDITORIALS

AS the July 1 expiration date on a moratorium on nuclear tests approaches, President Clinton's inclination to resume testing looks less and less defensible.

Congress enacted the ban last November. Once the ban expires, the law allows up to 15 tests between 1993 and 1996, after which further tests would be prohibited unless another country tests. The president is reportedly proposing nine tests, three of which will be conducted by Britain at the US Department of Energy's Yucca Flats test site in Nevada.

Opposition to new tests is building in Congress. If the president seeks to resume testing, lawmakers should reject the proposal and renew the ban.

Those who support the tests, including the Joint Chiefs of Staff-and the State Department, argue that the six United States "shots" are needed to test modifications designed to ensure the safety and reliability of existing Trident, MX, and cruise-missile warheads. However, in 1991, an Air Force safety review panel noted that risks associated with modifying cruise-missile warheads to make them safer would outweigh the safety gains. Safety risks from handling these weapons already have been reduced to nearly zero: They have been taken off bombers and placed in secure bunkers.

As for the Trident warheads, the Navy reportedly is satisfied with their safety and refuses to spend the $3 billion to $6 billion to alter them, even if the modified warheads are tested.

State Department support for testing apparently is prompted by pressure from Britain and France, who have not tested during the moratorium: Britain, because it needs the US facility; France because its moratorium remains in force until the US resumes tests. Britain wants to test; it is said to be developing a new Trident warhead and a new bomb. Russia also has halted tests until the US resumes its program. Although it has made no commitment to a moratorium, China also has refrained from testing.

The Department of Energy, the president's science adviser, and the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency oppose new tests. With little to gain and momentum toward a comprehensive test ban to lose, Clinton should oppose them too.

Dinosaur Days

IN pre-Jurassic days, we wouldn't have noticed. But when a book-touring author referred to "The last dinosauric gasp of the Soviet regime," we cast a sharp glance. Was he *... under the influence?* Had he been absorbed into the dinosaur madness found on magazine covers from The New Yorker to Boy's Life? Had his agent said, "Play the Jurassic angle on the Kremlin, it's selling."

Ah, Hollywood! These are the days of *Triceretops* and *Veliceraptor*. Stephen Spielberg's "Jurassic Park," a genuine thriller, broke box office records with a $50 million take last weekend. The film corresponds with new dinosaur revisionism and theories about genetic possibilities. After the movie and media one must know that dinosaurs were not as pea-brained as we were taught, nor were their metabolisms as cold-blooded. Soon it will be *de rigueur* to choose a favorite dino. Does one go with the large veggie-eating *Sauropods*? Or the more aggressive meat-eating *Theropods*? Don't look at your notes!

Our own expert for the last 10 years, now age 15, recites chapter and verse about the *Triceretops* who, he said, were social beings who took care of their young. Sounds good to us.

Kids love the strangeness of these creatures. Dinosaurs, like the reaches of space, put them in touch with grander dimensions. As our expert says, dinosaurs ruled earth for 270 million years while man's written record dates back only 10,000.

How sad that the hype – Jurassic meals at McDonald's, a theme park, clothes, toys – makes kids feel pressure to see a film not made for them. In a poll of parents in Los Angeles most said they wouldn't take a child under nine. One stated: "The scene where the *Tyrannosaurus rex* eats the lawyer was very disturbing."

There's also some science hype. Can 150-million-year-old DNA create a "terrible lizard"? A Newsweek cover simply asks: "Could Dinosaurs Return?" This isn't the most pressing question facing mankind today. But what if they did? Would we negotiate with them? Would dinosaurs accept a homeland under a UN trusteeship headed toward a limited form of democracy with a bicameral legislature?

But seriously, the film does have a message. The dinosaurs may be terrifying. But we don't blame them. They *are* dinosaurs, after all. The issue is what happens when ambitious people take hold of forces too profound for them. "We spared no expense," says the willful dilettante who recreates dinosaurs in the film. Scientists distrust him because, as one says, his efforts "don't require any discipline. You have simply borrowed the genius of others for your own purposes."

Sounds like a timeless warning.

TOM HUGHES

Random Shots, Hard Questions

How do you regain control of an urban neighborhood?

By David Holmstrom

TWO shots were heard, dulled a little by distance and buildings, but unmistakably gunshots. Not five minutes before, my wife and I had been strolling along the Southwest Corridor Park in Boston's South End around 9:15 in the evening.

The park is beautifully landscaped, a meandering, narrow garden walkway about 20 yards wide and three or four miles long. Years ago, the corridor was railroad tracks slicing through racially mixed neighborhoods. Now a much-used public basketball court and tennis court can be seen from our second-story deck adjacent to the long corridor.

We look out into the evening. Police have arrived, patrol cars with red lights flashing. A 40-year-old man named Thomas Carey has been shot in the back and killed as he walked along the corridor. It is a random shooting.

Eight of us from the neighborhood, who passed by a cluster of black youths wearing hoods just before the shots rang out, are taken to the local precinct station to tell the details of whom and what we saw.

What I saw was fragmentary, a glanced impression of youngsters laughing too much in the shadows. They hid in their hoods as if wearing masks borrowed from some terrible underworld. I didn't see their faces. I know they were very young. There is no way of knowing if one of them pulled the trigger.

This kind of random violence has become common in American cities, large and small. All races are involved – so many youngsters with guns, and so little capacity to reason themselves out of the conclusion that it is right to shoot someone, anyone, for the slightest and most flawed of reasons.

At the police station, reading the notices on the walls and listening to the conversations of men for whom random shootings are all too common, questions came to me: Are we witnessing the massive failure, all at once, of the hallmarks of culture and civilization? Family, church, schools, community? Is this the bottom, where a killing brings neighbors together at a police station as if we are standing on a ledge? Are we yelling for help before another bullet springs from a gun in a young hand?

With spiritual tenacity, with hope and courage, there comes an obligation not to turn from this confrontation. Yet where do we find the sharpened analysis, the new/old ideas to reach out and change what has evolved so badly?

Are we helpless to do something, as essayist and critic George Steiner suggests in writing about the causes of a great evil, the Holocaust? "The barbarism of our time," Steiner wrote, "did not spring out of the steppe or the jungle. It arose in the very heartland of high civilization. Men tortured and gassed in the very neighborhoods of the museums, schools, concert halls, libraries which constitute the anatomy of humanism."

AT the police station, I see a photo of a child and remember that the National Commission on Children concluded that our nation is "careless" about our children, no matter the color. So many are unable to function because their families cannot function. The emotional and social costs of this failure have become staggering, even deadly.

In 1991, chairman of the commission, Sen. John Rockefeller (D) of West Virginia, implored that we "place children and their families at the top of the national agenda." He talked in terms of saving children and regaining control of our national destiny. But how do you regain control of a neighborhood?

It is past midnight when we are driven home in a police car. The streets are nearly empty. The officer thanks us for stepping forward. But what we have done seems feeble, too easy.

Are we up to the hard work needed to support community groups, to the weekend or week-night involvement in the projects, discussions, and sharing that bring a neighborhood together? We are stalled in this nether land of doubt and unease, caring that what is wrong be made right. But how to be effective, clear, collaborative?

There are no easy answers along the corridor.

■ *David Holmstrom is a staff writer for the Monitor.*

OPINION/ESSAYS

Clinton appointments should close a leadership gap in national parks

Park Service Renewal

By Robert Cahn

NATIONAL Park Service aficionados are wondering how much of a difference the appointment of Roger Kennedy as Park Service director will make in dealing with the system's troubles.

For two decades the National Park Service (NPS) has drifted from its moorings. Political interference, dwindling congressional support, and lack of effective leadership have contributed to plummeting morale within its ranks. Now, however, with a new director and with strong support from his superiors – led by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt – there is a surge of hope that the Park Service is about to regain its place as one of the most respected public-service agencies in the government.

Although park visitation has increased rapidly and many additional areas added, the number of park rangers has not increased for a decade, salaries are among the lowest in government, duties have greatly expanded, and threats to natural habitats have increased. A year-long internal study in 1991, during the 75th anniversary of the founding of the service, pointed out the system's many deficiencies. A symposium of NPS and citizen leaders recommended more than 90 far-reaching changes to better preserve and protect the parks and interpret them to the public.

Because a majority of park-system units are of historic or cultural significance, it is proper that the Park Service be led by a historian.

The appointment of Mr. Kennedy, who recently retired as director of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, has disappointed some people who preferred either a candidate from within the Park Service or from outside but with natural-resources expertise. Others, however, believe that because a majority of the 367 park-system units are primarily of historic or cultural significance, it is proper that the Park Service be led for the first time by a historian. In a recent conversation, Kennedy told me of his conviction that both natural and cultural areas must be given renewed stewardship as well as more-effective management and interpretation of their values to the public.

The election of Bill Clinton and Al Gore Jr. and Mr. Babbitt's appointment as interior secretary left many observers optimistic over a quick rise in Park Service fortunes. But expectations sagged when the White House turned down Babbitt's original list of candidates, ostensibly because the administration wanted either a "big name" or a minority.

TV-news anchorman Tom Brokaw noted in an interview that he had been offered the job and had declined. The White House personnel office requested a resumé from a black state parks and recreation director but never got back in touch with him. When Babbitt submitted his new top candidate, Kennedy, a proven Washington manager, author, and broadcaster, the White House personnel office replied that Kennedy "was not a proper fit" (bureaucratese for "we're looking for someone with higher ratings on the political scale"). The word leaked out that the front-runners for the job were two Democrats who lost their reelection bids in 1992: Rep. Les AuCoin (D) of Oregon and Rep. Peter Kostmayer (D) of Pennsylvania. A frustrated Babbitt arranged a one-on-one meeting with President Clinton and managed to persuade him to accept Kennedy for the good of the national parks.

Another source of optimism is the selection of Wilderness Society President George Frampton to be assistant secretary of the interior for fish, wildlife, and parks. The post is responsible for supervision of the Park Service and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Frampton's special assistant for national parks is expected to be T. Destry Jarvis, highly regarded within the Park Service and in conservation circles for his work as a vice president of the Student Conservation Association and a former vice president of the National Parks and Conservation Association.

It will take time to correct the accumulated woes besetting the Park Service. But the political meddling in Park Service management by anti-conservation ideologues, which was such a problem in the Reagan administration and early in Bush's term, now appears to have vanished. As interior secretary in the early 1980s, James Watt refused to acquire lands and new areas needed to fill out the system. He backed park concessioners in their efforts to develop park accommodations and allow expanded commercial activities. His assistant secretary for fish, wildlife, and parks, G. Ray Arnett, tried to abolish heavily used NPS urban "recreation areas" such as Gateway and Golden Gate around New York and San Fransisco. Secretary Donald Hodel's assistant secretary, William Horn, overruled Parks Director William Penn Mott on personnel evaluations, and Mr. Horn's special assistant frequently bypassed Mr. Mott and gave park superintendents orders that favored landowners near the parks.

Even with the new team in place, the service faces enormous problems. Park buildings, roads, and service facilities sorely need repairs and maintenance that will cost more than $4 billion. When Congress recently killed Clinton's stimulus package, the NPS lost $270 million earmarked to begin the process of correcting these deficiencies.

The NPS has barely started trying to achieve some of the changes recommended by the 1991 symposium. Nor has it made much progress toward the changes recommended in a scathing 1991 National Research Council report on science in parks. Obtaining adequate money and building support in Congress will take time. But many of the needed changes can be made more quickly through management and policy shakeups, which should be easier to achieve by a director from the outside who is backed by a secretary of the interior committed to helping and protecting the national parks.

Kennedy's close contacts with lawmakers and committee staffs during his 13 years as head of the National Museum of American History and his executive experience in previous posts at Justice, Labor, and Health, Education, and Welfare Departments should help him rebuild support in Congress for the Park Service.

■ *Robert Cahn is a former Washington correspondent for the Monitor and winner of the 1969 Pulitzer Prize for national news reporting for a Monitor series "Will Success Spoil the National Parks?" He was also a member of the first presidential Council on Environmental Quality.*

Permanent Palestine Solution Still Elusive

By Alon Ben-Meir

A GROWING number of Israeli government officials, led by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, believe the sealing off of the West Bank and Gaza should be made permanent. They say notions about Israeli-Palestinian coexistence have proven illusory. Although closure has halted the random killing of Israelis and may seem to have opened up new political options for a solution, sealing off the territories would be disastrous for both sides. Meron Benvenisti, Israel's foremost expert on the territories, says: "The closure will deepen the segregation between Arabs and Jews, creating apartheid, complete with a pass system," a condition that Palestinians in Israel and the territories would violently reject.

There has always been a deliberate effort by the Israeli governments to keep the Arabs as a nonassimilated minority to reduce the danger of assimilation and intermarriage and to prevent the transformation of Israel into a binational state. These efforts have been only marginally successful. Coexistence is not only dictated by existing demographic conditions but also has become a way of life. Nearly 60 percent of the Palestinian people live in Israel proper and the territories. Considering the dual claims of both Israelis and Palestinians to the same land, the solution must incorporate these two realities and still produce two separate political entities, one Jewish and one Palestinian.

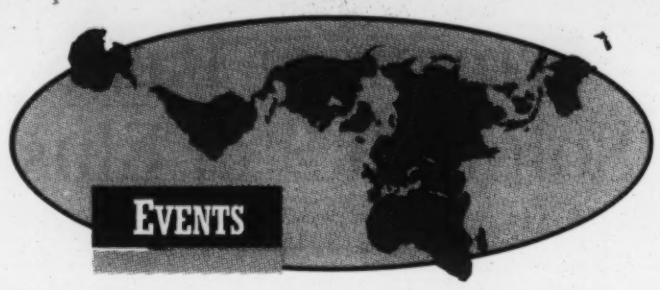
Both sides must accept the requisite of exchanging territory for peace in accordance with United Nations Resolution 242. No Israeli government, however, could survive the ensuing political storm should it contemplate dismantling any sizable number of settlements, even for the sake of peace. And no Palestinian leadership will give up nearly 50 percent of the West Bank. This border correction will be critical to meet some Israeli security concerns, to satisfy the Israelis' strong attachment to their biblical land, and to allow Israel to incorporate nearly half of the settlements in the West Bank, especially those around Jerusalem, into Israel proper. This would also alleviate the formidable resistance from the West Bank settlers and their supporters.

THE borders to be established, following a transitional period of five to seven years of Palestinian self-rule, would provide legal jurisdiction for both peoples and an actual demarcation of the territory, over which Israelis and Palestinians would exercise their respective political authorities. The Palestinians could then establish their own political entity in Gaza and over 90 percent of the West Bank, possibly in confederation with Jordan. A mutual open border policy must be adopted to ensure freedom of movement.

Both peoples already live in their biblical homeland, and no major shift or transfer of population can realistically be contemplated by either side. The vast majority of Palestinians living in Israel under Israeli rule will undoubtedly continue to live in Israel. There will probably be between 50,000 to 75,000 Israelis who may not want to relinquish their current place of residence and may end up living in a Palestinian entity. The residents or citizens of each other's nationality who choose to stay where they currently reside will have to adhere to the laws of the country of residence. The acceptance of dual territorial claims will make it possible for both Israelis and Palestinians to maintain their own national identities without uprooting themselves to establish a physical presence in the area where their political national expression is exercised freely. Besides, the presence of 800,000 Palestinians in Israel makes it particularly important to maintain open socioeconomic and cultural channels to what will become the Palestinian national centers in the West Bank.

Israel and the Palestinian entity will establish their own laws to govern land purchases in their territory and the issuance of permits for residency or citizenship of each other's nationals who wish to relocate from one entity to the other. This arrangement would prevent Palestinians or Israelis attaining demographic majorities in each other's territories. Only a solution based on the ideal of coexistence and a pragmatic mechanism to carry it through offers the hope for a lasting peace.

■ *Alon Ben-Meir is a New York based political analyst specializing in Middle Eastern affairs.*



YELTSIN OUTLINES A NEW CONSTITUTION

Members of a constitutional convention voted yesterday to support President Boris Yeltsin's framework for a post-Soviet-era charter that includes a new legislative system and private land ownership rights. The vote by the 700 delegates does not ratify the new constitution, but is a significant step forward in Mr. Yeltsin's attempts to revamp the Russian political order. Yeltsin summarized in a statement the basic principles of the constitution that he hopes the convention will draft after it resumes work June 26. The principles favored by Yeltsin called for a new, bicameral legislature to replace the Congress of People's Deputies, which has hindered Yeltsin's reforms.

US housing starts up

Housing starts rose 2.4 percent in May to the highest level in five months, the government said yesterday. Construction increased in the South and Midwest, but slipped in the Northeast and West.

Analysts attributed the sales activity to pent up demand, an improving jobs and income picture, and mortgage rates that remained at 20-year lows.

Somalia relief resumes

Trucks trundled out of Mogadishu port yesterday, signaling the resumption of relief operations halted a week ago to pave the way for UN air raids. Three trucks, cheered by a large crowd of Somalis, ferried 90 tons to the northern part of Mogadishu for distribution to feeding centers that closed last week after aid workers were evacuated to neighboring Kenya.

Their return was announced Tuesday after a meeting with Adm. Jonathan Howe, UN special envoy to Somalia, who diplomats said assured aid agencies there would be no more military strikes to punish a defiant Somali warlord.

Pepsi says 'no recall'

Responding to reports of syringes and needles being found in Pepsi cans, Pepsi-Cola's US chief said yesterday it was virtually impossible for any tampering to have occurred at bottling plants.

People in 18 states have reported finding syringes and hypodermic needles in Pepsi cans over the last week, according to police and news reports.

Pepsi-Cola Co. has said it has no plans for a recall, and federal officials caution that the claims appeared unrelated and many could be hoaxes.

School equity ruling

Massachusetts' Supreme Judicial Court Tuesday ruled that the state has failed to provide equal education opportunities to all public school students, and ordered the legislature and governor to address inequities in school funding.

The legislature recently passed an education reform bill that is designed to bring each school district up to an average per pupil spending level of at least $5,550 within seven years. Lt. Gov. Paul Cellucci (R) said the administration will maintain its no-new-taxes pledge while making good on the commitment to public schools. Gov. William F. Weld (R) is likely to sign the bill Friday.

EC economies to shrink

The European Community yesterday predicted the economy of the 12-nation trading bloc would contract by 0.5 percent this year, the worst performance in nearly two decades. The community predicted worsening unemployment, with the jobless rate expected to surge to 12 percent in 1994, its highest level since World War II.

North Korea nukes

The International Atomic Energy Agency said yesterday it would seek to resume inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities after Pyongyang decided against pulling out of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The statement welcomed the "positive outcome" of talks June 11 in New York, which resulted in North Korea suspending its withdrawal from the treaty, which is designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Nigeria results delayed

Nigerians who voted for a president June 12 faced an uncertain Wednesday after a high-court order halted an announcement of final vote results, and the embittered trailing party cried foul. Neither President Ibrahim Babangida's military government nor its electoral commission commented Tuesday night on the latest threats to a thrice-delayed program to return the country to civil rule.

– Compiled by Scott Baldauf

Canada's political contest seems to have turned on issues of region, gender, age, marital status

How the Hare Beat the Turtle

JOHN HAMILTON, a retired Canadian Army officer from Peterborough, Ontario, was trying to decide who to chose as Canada's next prime minister: a twice-divorced woman from British Columbia with great credentials, or a married man from Quebec with great style.

With little difference between the candidates on policy matters, region, gender, age, and marital status all became decisive issues.

Standing in the Ottawa Civic Center hallway, across from a telephone company exhibit where delegates were lining up for a free phone call anywhere in the world, Mr. Hamilton was explaining his challenge.

"I'm trying to assess the candidates as individuals, to see whether these people will be leaders," he said. "But I admit I'm concerned over further leaders coming from Quebec."

A LETTER FROM OTTAWA

Hamilton's dilemma was familiar to the 400 to 500 uncommitted delegates at last week's Progressive Conservative Party leadership convention. Most of the 3,476 delegates had chosen sides. But the race appeared close and many thought the uncommitteds would decide who would replace resigning Prime Minister Brian Mulroney and lead the party into fall elections.

"Winnability" was the crucial quality all agreed on. But who or what was winnable? Many delegates worried 34-year-old Environment Minister Jean Charest, though a sparkling bilingual orator, was too young.

Others feared western Canada would reject him as yet another Quebecois prime minister who would favor Quebec over the rest of Canada.

Mr. Charest, however, was overcoming those doubts with smooth political skills. He surged last week as front runner Kim Campbell, a 46-year-old lawyer and former professor who plays cello, lost ground. Some delegates worried her wit and glibness were dangerous propensities.

"I was one of the first to bail out of Kim's camp," says Geoff Scott, a member of Parliament from Wentworth, Ontario. "I wanted to see a woman in there. But she has a tendency to shoot from the lip, plus ... I hold family values dear, and Charest is a family man."

Robert Dieleman, a delegate from Oxford, Ontario, was sitting with his wife Marion in the civic center auditorium heat. Between them was their 9-week-old daughter Laura. "I have concerns about Charest because that would mean choosing another leader from Quebec," he said. "I have problems with Campbell. Some of her comments, make her look like a bull in a china shop."

Charles Murray, an uncommitted delegate, said the party's core followers were torn. "They're afraid Campbell is going to take the party away from traditional values," he says. "She sends the message that she's an urban intellectual with fairly liberal social views, and that makes them nervous."

Making the most of such doubts, favorable polls, and fresh endorsements, Charest's team dubbed the contest a race between the tortoise (Charest) and hare (Campbell).

Plastic turtles and turtle stickers were in abundance. Both camps cajoled and fed delegates – and there were a few reports of arm twisting.

Last Sunday, however, the hare won. Campbell edged out Charest, overcoming charges that she was arrogant, too ambitious, and even unstable.

"Some of these things are just code words for voting against women," said Flora MacDonald, who in 1976 became the first woman to run for the conservative leadership.

She had planned to watch this race from the sidelines, she said, but as the sniping got worse, she stepped up to endorse and defend Campbell.

"There are all kinds of men in politics who are arrogant," Ms. MacDonald says. "Nobody ever said they were unstable or indecisive."

– Mark Clayton